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PREVIEW

MICHAEL TURNER A
FRANK MASTROMAURO
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DREAMER DESIGN
MAY 2006

Shrugged



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SHRUGGED: PREVIEW

COME Out And PLAY

SHRUGGED™ CREATED BY: MICHAEL TURNER AND FRANK MASTROMAURO

Who or what? Right or Wrong? Love or hate? Whatever the choice, Theo's conscience makes the call. He is your typical above-average high school teenager and his adolescence is a rollercoaster full of emotions that dictate his every choice. But is Theo the one really calling the shots, or is he just merely along for the ride? One thing is for sure...he is definitely not alone.

Theo and Angelo know it is their sole purpose to capably guide Theo from his birth to his passing, providing their own conscientious reasoning on his behalf. While not in control of his every move, they could only see in passing his sense of right and wrong—until now. Initially assigned as observers in Theo's world, they will come to realize that they can do much more than simply provide their own perspective. They can now rule at his world, and one thing is for sure...they as well are definitely not alone.



COVER A:
MICAH GUNNELL,
JASON GORDON,
BETH SOTELO

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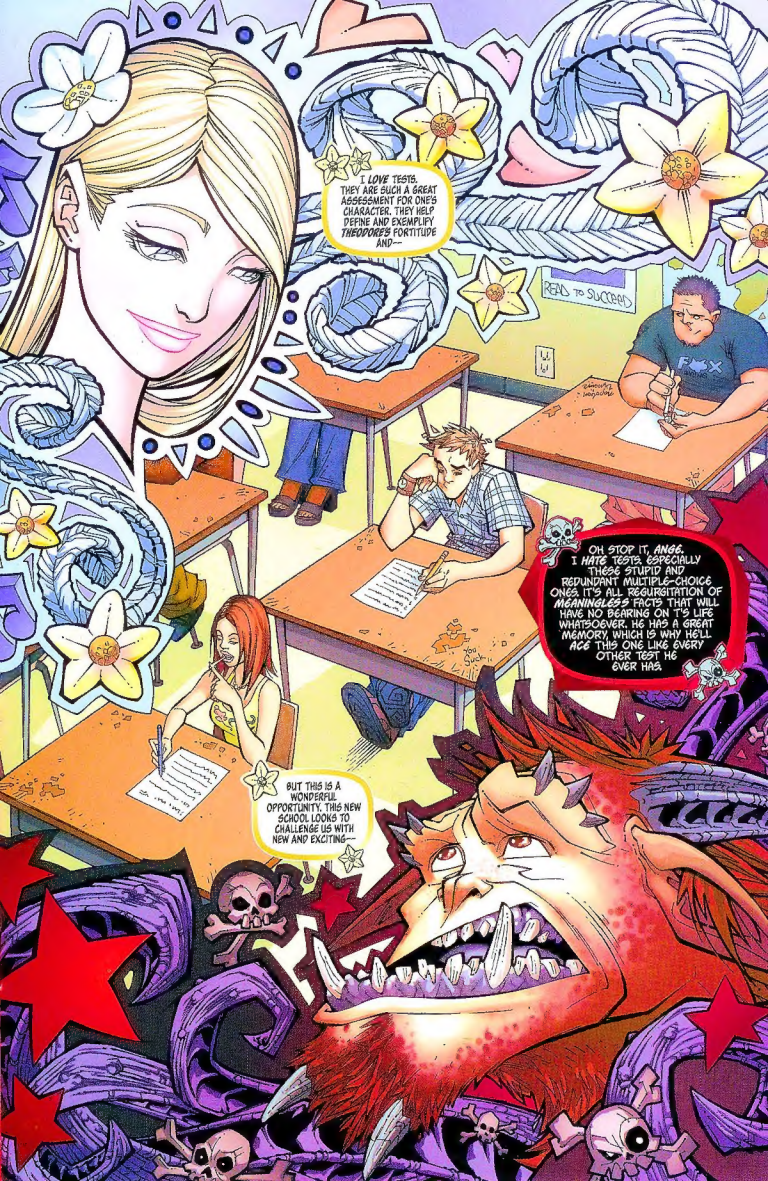
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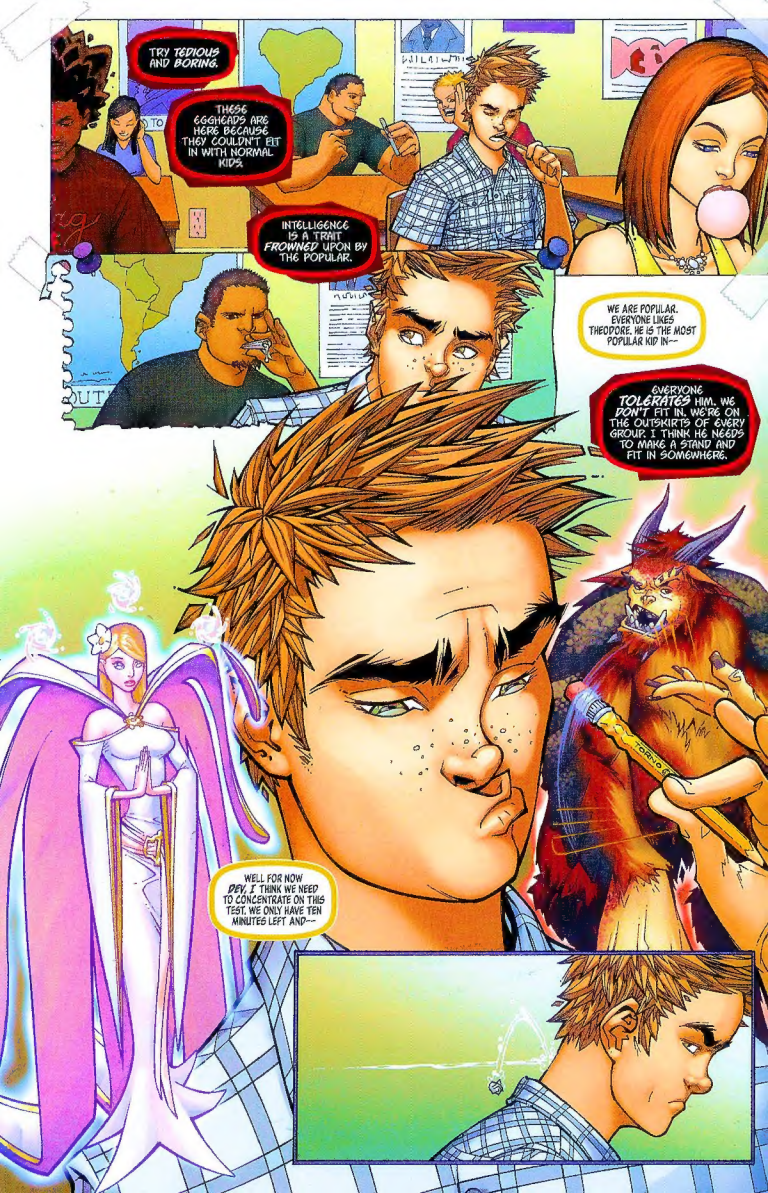


I LOVE TESTS.
THEY ARE SUCH A GREAT
ASSESSMENT FOR ONE'S
CHARACTER. THEY HELP
DEFINE AND EXEMPLIFY
THEOPHORE'S FORTITUDE
AND—

READ TO SUCCEED

OH STOP IT, ANGE.
I HATE TESTS, ESPECIALLY
THESE STUPID AND
REDUNDANT MULTIPLE-CHOICE
ONES. IT'S ALL REGURGITATION OF
MEANINGLESS FACTS THAT WILL
HAVE NO BEARING ON T'S LIFE
WHATSOEVER. HE HAS A GREAT
MEMORY, WHICH IS WHY HE'LL
ACE THIS ONE LIKE EVERY
OTHER TEST HE
EVER HAS.

BUT THIS IS A
WONDERFUL
OPPORTUNITY. THIS NEW
SCHOOL LOOKS TO
CHALLENGE US WITH
NEW AND EXCITING—



TRY TEDIOUS
AND BORING.

THESE
EGGHEADS ARE
HERE BECAUSE
THEY COULDN'T EIT
IN WITH NORMAL
KIDS.

INTELLIGENCE
IS A TRAIT
FROWNED UPON BY
THE POPULAR.

WE ARE POPULAR.
EVERYONE LIKES
THEODORE. HE IS THE MOST
POPULAR KID IN--

EVERYONE
TOLERATES HIM. WE
DON'T FIT IN. WE'RE ON
THE OUTSKIRTS OF EVERY
GROUP. I THINK HE NEEDS
TO MAKE A STAND AND
FIT IN SOMEWHERE.

WELL FOR NOW
DEV, I THINK WE NEED
TO CONCENTRATE ON THIS
TEST. WE ONLY HAVE TEN
MINUTES LEFT AND--



NOW THIS
IS A TEST!

OK THEO, TURN
AROUND AND BELT
THAT LITTLE TURTLE RIGHT
IN THE KISSER, AND WHEN
HE HITS THE GROUND, GRAB
THAT ABSURDLY BIG
BIOLOGY BOOK AND--

NOW THEODORE,
YOU WILL DO NOTHING OF
THE SORT. HE IS THE ONE IN
CONTROL OF HIS EMOTIONS,
AND HE WILL CONCENTRATE
ON HIS TEST, JUST LIKE
KIDRI--

IF SHE'S
CONCENTRATING
ON HER TEST SO
HARD, WHY IS SHE
LOOKING AT T? CMON
YOU SLY DOG, GIVE
HER A WINK.

THAT'S IMPOLITE
AND TOO AGGRESSIVE.
GIRLS WANT TO BE
ROMANCED AND--

NO, GIRLS WANT
ASSERTIVENESS, COME
ON AND WINK, DO IT.
SHE'LL LIKE IT.

I TOLD YOU HE IS
IN CONTROL. LETS GET
BACK TO THE TEST. OK NOW,
THE MITOCHONDRIA DO WHAT
FUNCTION FOR THE CELL?
A... B, C, OR D?

I'LL SHOW YOU
WHAT A FREAKIN'
MITOCHONDRIA IS GONNA
DO TO THAT LAME ASS
BEHIND USA COME ON!
GET UP AND SOCK
HIM IN THE GRILL!

THERE
YA GO!

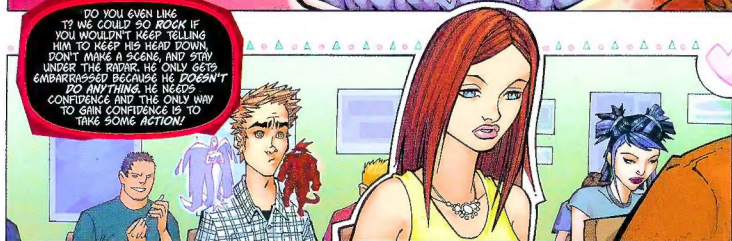
WAIT... CALM...
WAIT, KIDRI WILL THINK
YOU ARE--

A MAN! COME ON KID! I'M REALLY GETTING TIRED OF THIS. YOU ARE GONNA HAVE TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELF. EVEN CARRIE WILL THINK YOU ARE COOL. DO IT KID.

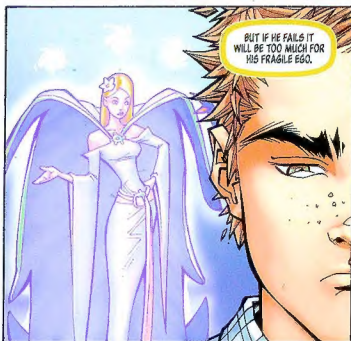
CARRIE IS A LITTLE OUT OF OUR LEAGUE. SHE IS--



DO YOU EVEN LIKE IT? WE COULD SO ROCK IF YOU WOULDN'T KEEP TELLING HIM TO KEEP HIS HEAD DOWN. DON'T MAKE A SCENE, AND STAY UNDER THE RADAR. HE ONLY GETS EMBARRASSED BECAUSE HE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING. HE NEEDS CONFIDENCE AND THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN CONFIDENCE IS TO TAKE SOME ACTION!



BUT IF HE FAILS IT WILL BE TOO MUCH FOR HIS FRAGILE EGO.



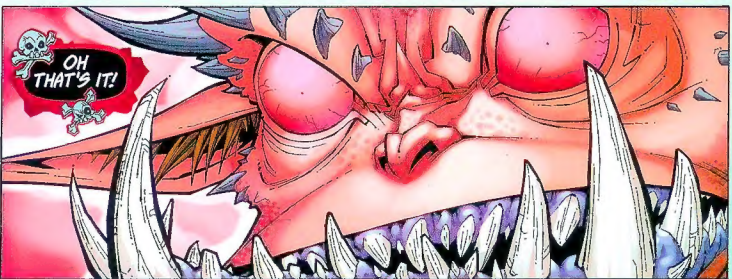
THE ONLY REASON IT IS FRAGILE IS BECAUSE HE LISTENS TO YOU TOO MUCH! AND FAILING IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO LEARN.

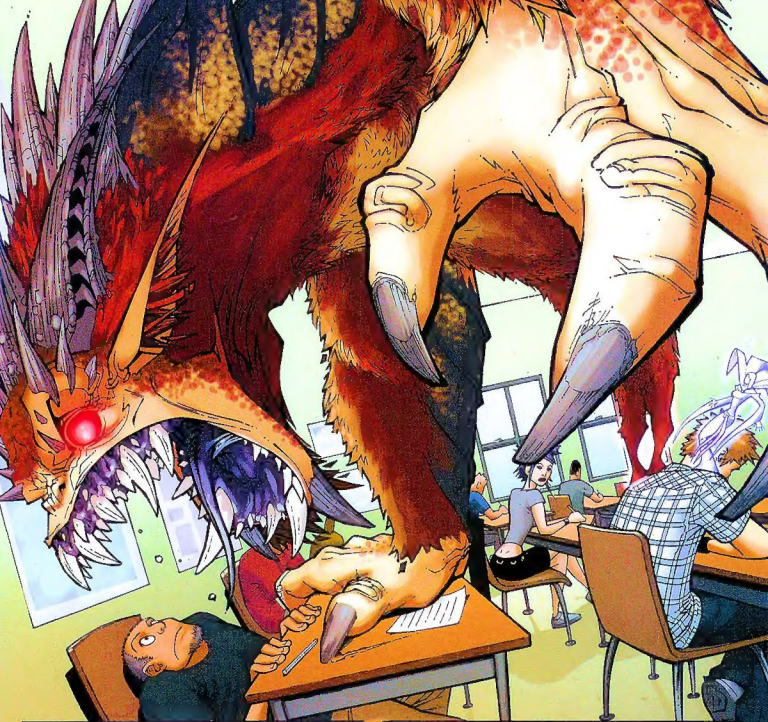


HOW DO YOU EXPECT HIM TO EVER GAIN ANY EXPERIENCE IF HE NEVER TRIES?



OH THAT'S IT!





WHAT DID YOU
JUST DO????

I... UH... I'M
NOT SURE.

HOW DID YOU DO
THAT? YOU KNOW YOU
CAN'T BE SEEN. WE ARE
ONLY FOR GUIDANCE AND
PERSPECTIVE.... NOT...

I DON'T
KNOW, OK!?! I
FEEL.... WEIRD. I'VE NEVER
FELT THAT BEFORE. IT WAS
AMAZING! I ACTUALLY
GOT A REACTION FROM
SOMEONE.

I'M SO USED TO
THE NEVER ENDING
FRUSTRATION OF HAVING
T NOT LISTEN TO ME... I
JUST SWAPPED. I'M NOT
SURE HOW I DID IT,
BUT I LIKE!

WE HAVE TO
FINISH THE TEST! THE
BELLS ABOUT TO RING.
WHERE IS HE?



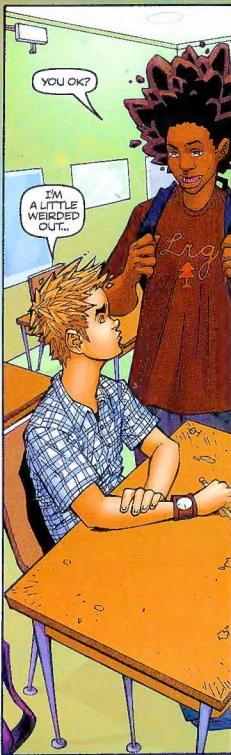
OK KID, IT'S A WHOLE NEW GAME NOW. YOU ARE GOING TO START STANDING UP FOR YOURSELF, OR I'M GOING TO DO IT FOR YOU!

YOU WILL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT.

NOTHING OF THE SORT, NOTHING OF THE SORT...



WHO ARE YOU TWO?!



YOU OK?

I'M A LITTLE WEIRDED OUT...



OK, NOW I'M WEIRDED OUT. HE ACTUALLY LOOKED SCARED OF YOU! WHAT HAPPENED? YOU SURE YOU'RE OK?

I DON'T KNOW MAN, LET'S GO GET SOME FRESH AIR.

THE TEST IS OVER. I THINK WE DID RATHER WELL, EVEN AFTER THAT STRANGE EXPERIENCE WE HAD... THAT CERTAINLY WAS ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR ONE DAY.

EXHILARATING IS MORE LIKE IT, BUT YOU'RE WRONG. THE TEST ISN'T OVER.

YES, MR. RHODES CAME AND COLLECTED EVERYONE'S PAPERS. WE WERE JUST ABLE TO FINISH THE LAST QUESTION BEFORE--

NOT THAT TEST. YOU REALLY NEED TO OPEN YOUR EYES A BIT WIDER. SOMETHING FANTASTIC HAPPENED TODAY. IT'S CRAZY...

BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE TRUE TEST IS JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN. ANGE, YOU BETTER BE READY, BECAUSE I AM BABY!!

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE PAGES OF *SHRUGGED* ON SALE THIS JUNE!



VOL. 1

COVER A

SHROGGED

BEGINNINGS



WENT
2006
GARDNER
Sotelo



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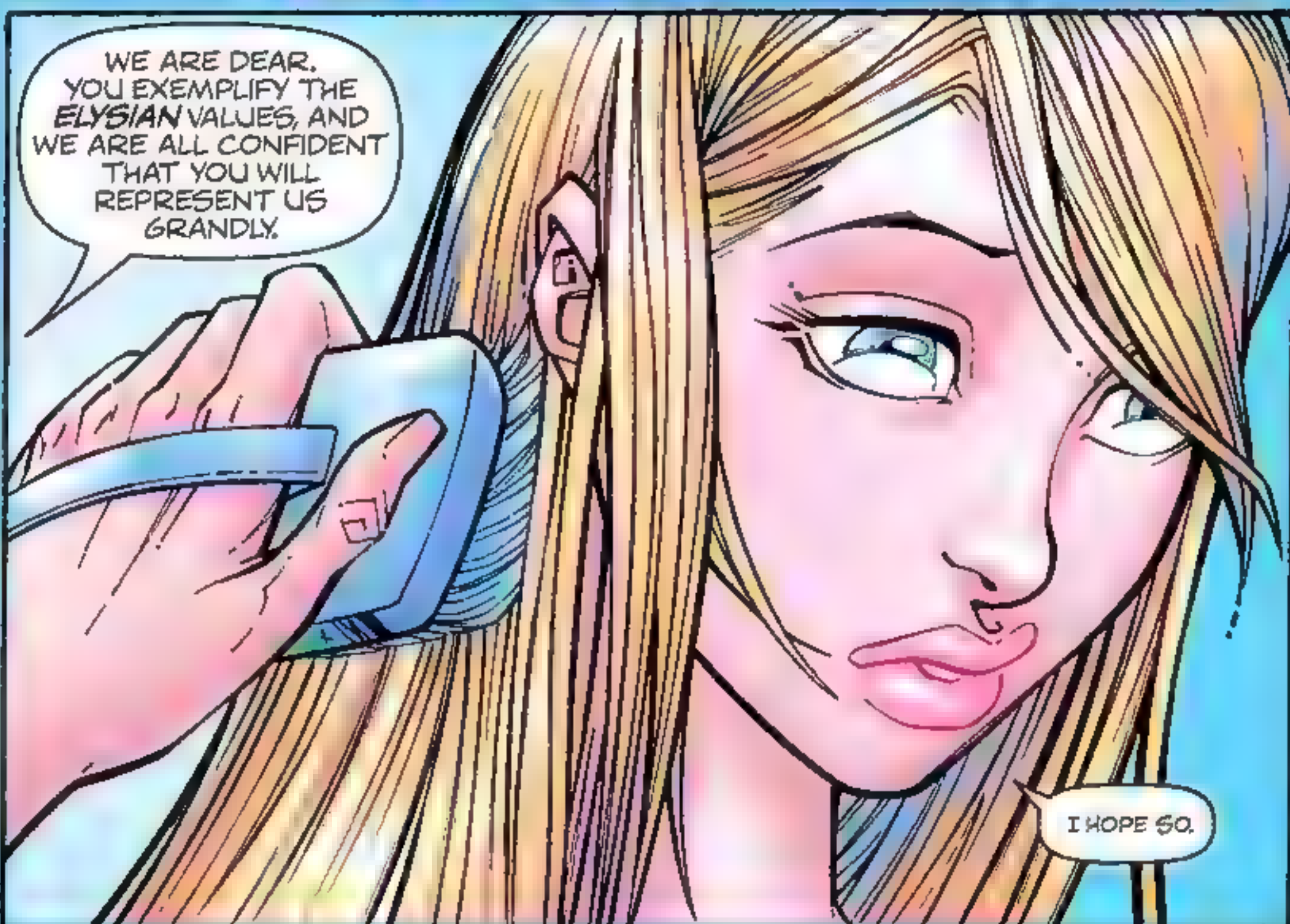
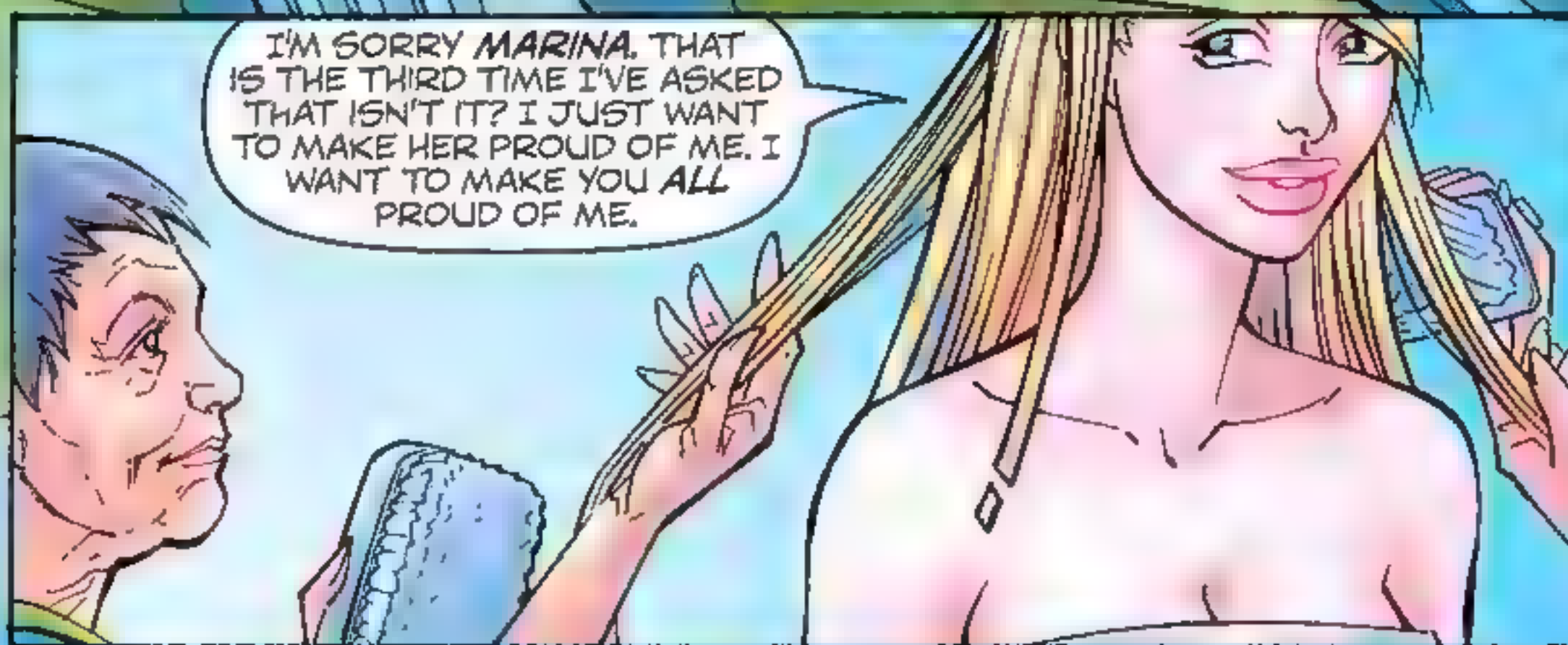
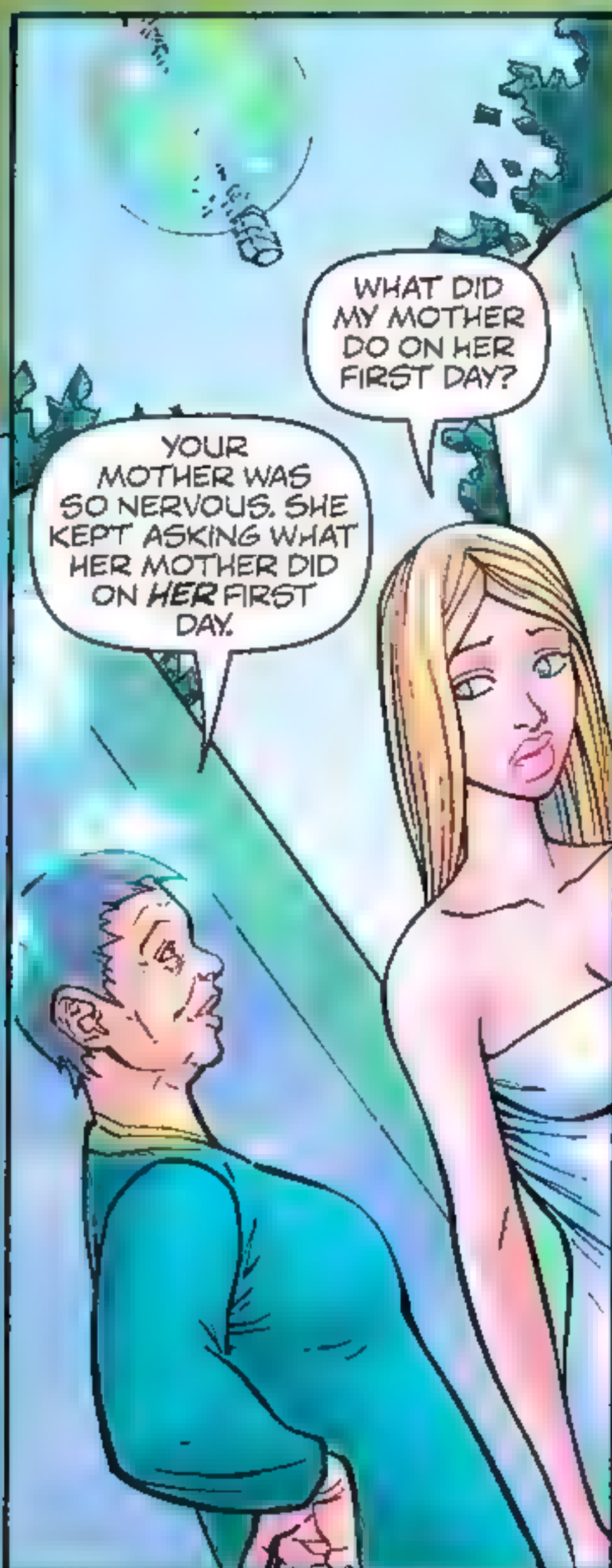
17 YEARS AGO

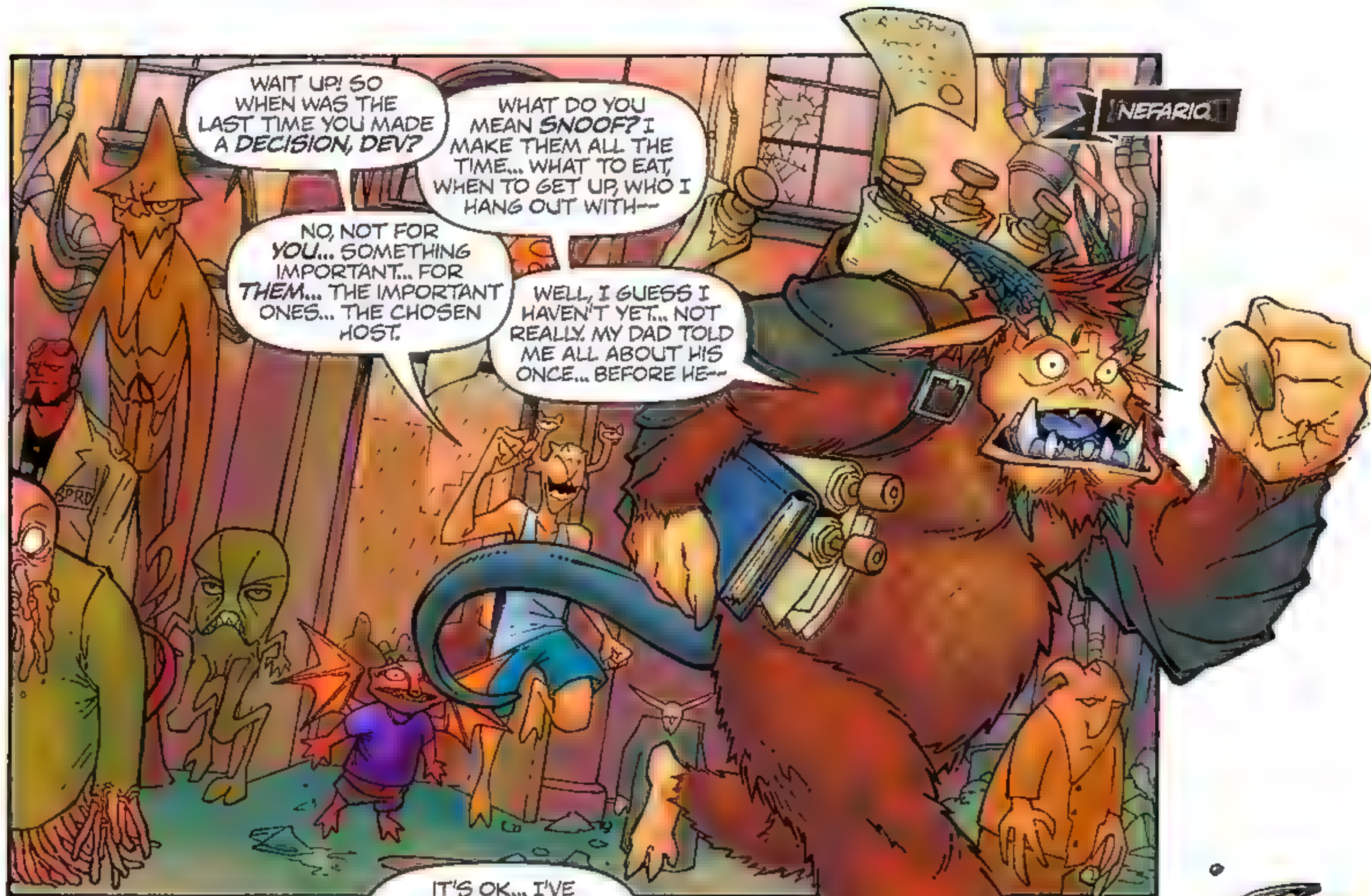
ELYSIA

THERE, THERE CHILD. YOU WILL BE QUITE DIVINE.

DO YOU THINK I WILL BE WORTHY OF MY ANCESTORS?

NOW ANGE, JUST REMEMBER THE PRINCIPLES WE CHERISH AND YOU WILL IMBUE THOSE WITHIN YOUR **SELECTED HOST** QUITE WONDERFULLY.



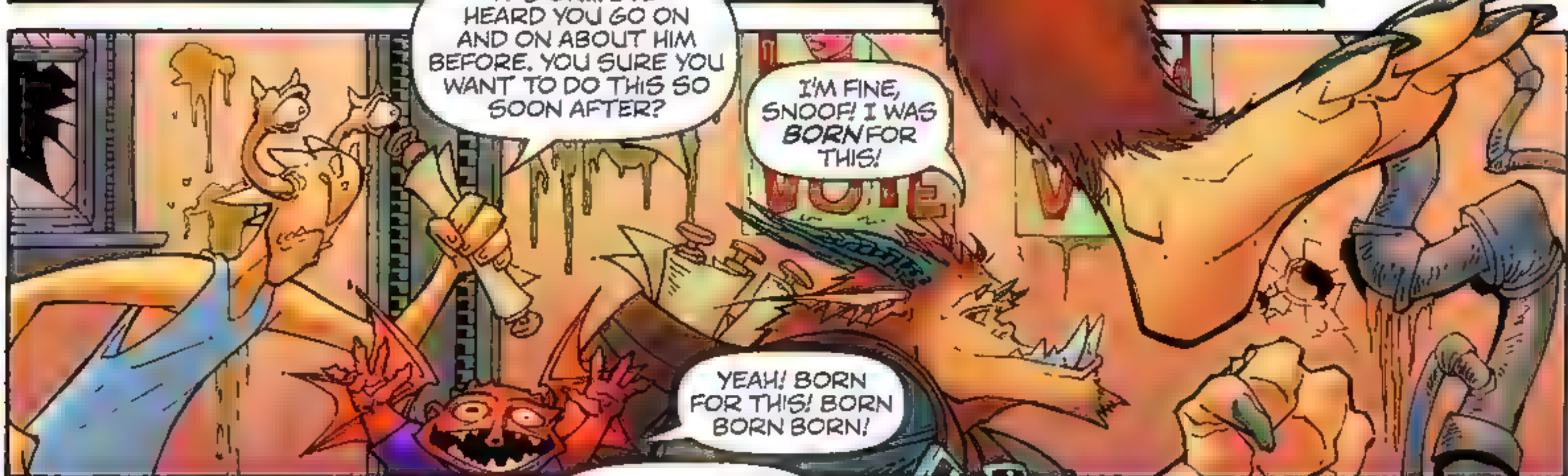


WAIT UP! SO WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU MADE A DECISION, DEV?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN SNOOF? I MAKE THEM ALL THE TIME... WHAT TO EAT, WHEN TO GET UP, WHO I HANG OUT WITH--

NO, NOT FOR YOU... SOMETHING IMPORTANT... FOR THEM... THE IMPORTANT ONES... THE CHOSEN HOST.

WELL, I GUESS I HAVEN'T YET... NOT REALLY. MY DAD TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HIS ONCE... BEFORE HE--



IT'S OK... I'VE HEARD YOU GO ON AND ON ABOUT HIM BEFORE. YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS SO SOON AFTER?

I'M FINE, SNOOF! I WAS BORN FOR THIS!

YEAH! BORN FOR THIS! BORN BORN BORN!

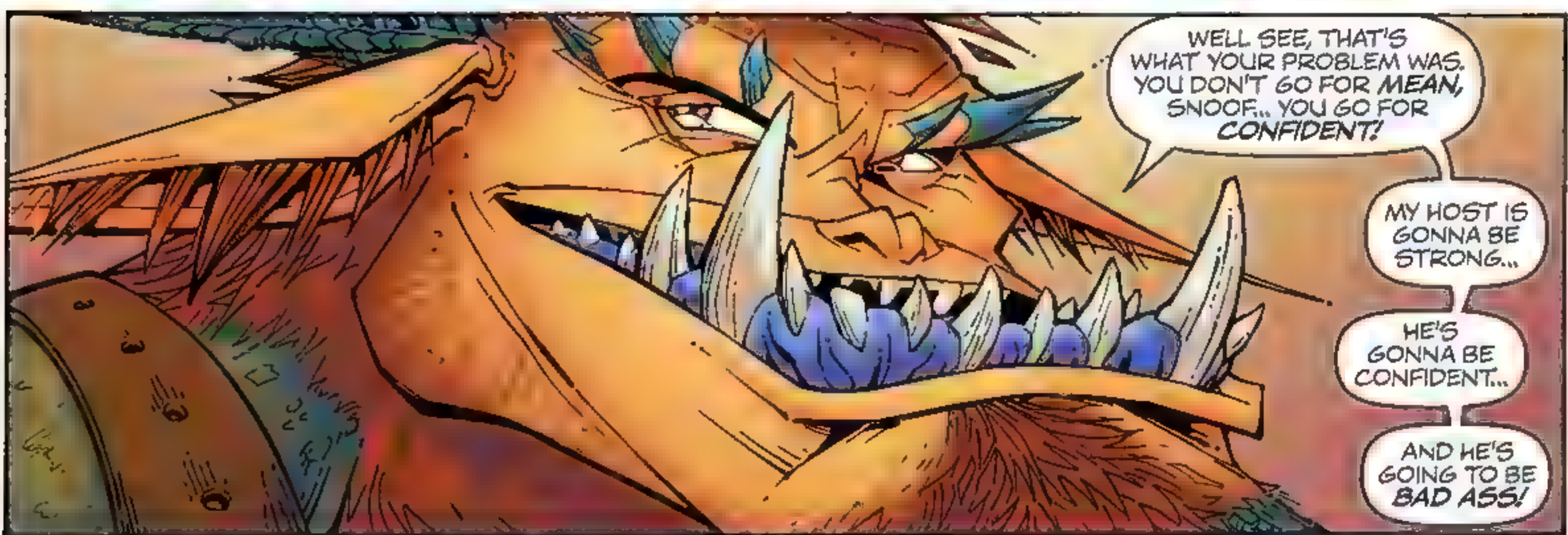


WE ALL WERE, DEV. BUT IT'S HARD. MY FIRST DIDN'T GO GOOD AT ALL.

GO GOOD!? WELL YOU MEAN?

MEAN IS WHAT HE WAS. YOUNG FREDERICK WAS AS MEAN AS I COULD MAKE HIM.

YEAH! MEAN FREDERICK! MEAN MEAN MEAN!



WELL SEE, THAT'S WHAT YOUR PROBLEM WAS. YOU DON'T GO FOR MEAN, SNOOF... YOU GO FOR CONFIDENT!

MY HOST IS GONNA BE STRONG...

HE'S GONNA BE CONFIDENT...

AND HE'S GOING TO BE BAD ASS!

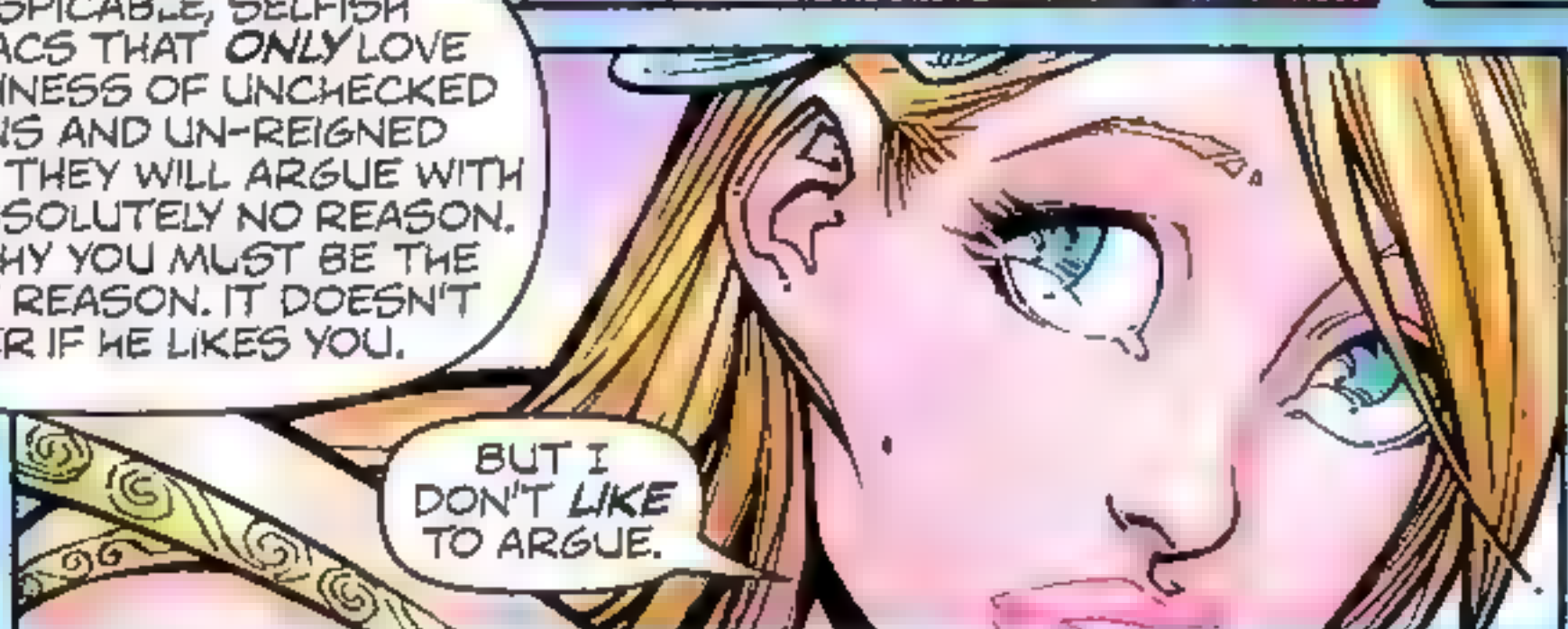


I DON'T
KNOW IF I'M
READY...

WHAT IF MY
HOST DOESN'T
LISTEN TO ME?

WHAT IF MY
NEFARIAN
COUNTERPART
DOESN'T LIKE
ME?

DEAR, THE NEFARIANS
ARE DESPICABLE, SELFISH
EGOMANIACS THAT **ONLY** LOVE
THE BRASHNESS OF UNCHECKED
EMOTIONS AND UN-REIGNED
REACTIONS. THEY WILL ARGUE WITH
YOU FOR ABSOLUTELY NO REASON.
THAT IS WHY YOU MUST BE THE
VOICE OF REASON. IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF HE LIKES YOU.



BUT I
DON'T LIKE
TO ARGUE.



YOU BETTER
GET USED TO IT
QUICKLY DEAR.

USE YOUR
LOGIC. USE YOUR
SELFLESS HONESTY.
USE YOUR PATIENCE,
AND YOU WILL DO
JUST FINE.



NO MORE
NEED FOR
WORRYING, MY
DEAR.



DUDE, I AM SO LATE!

YOU'RE ALWAYS LATE, DEV!

YEAH! LATE LATE LATE!

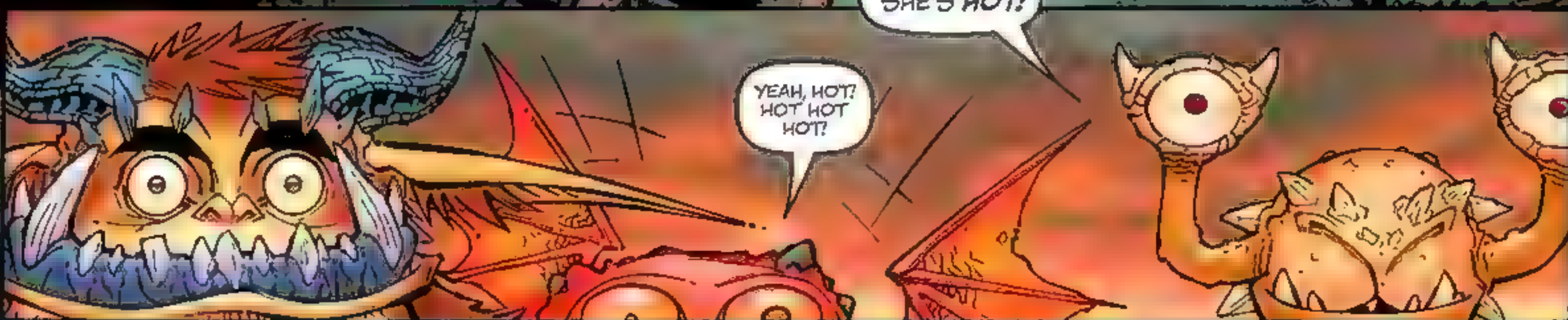


SHUT UP, GOO!



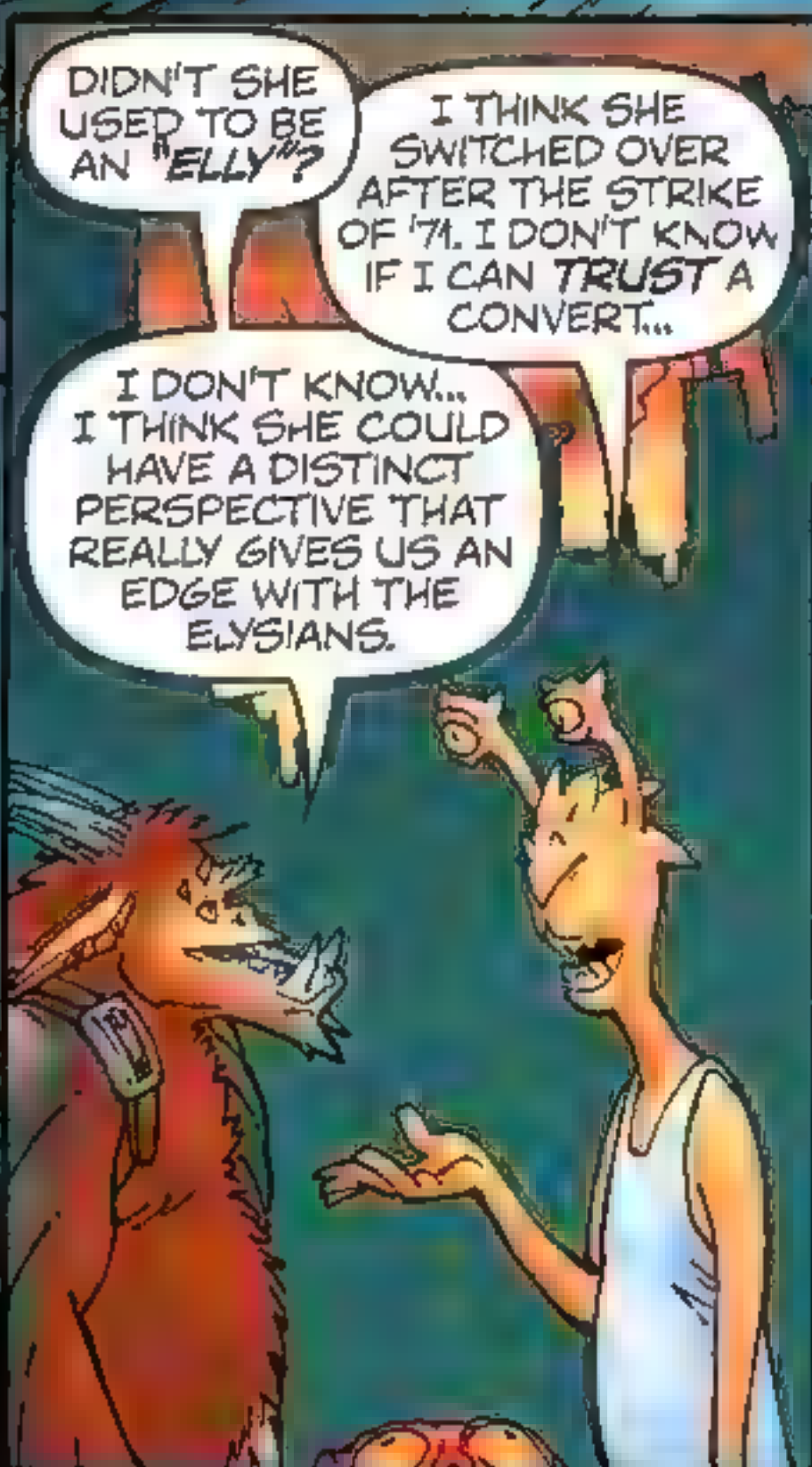
HOONK!

WHOOOAAHHHH!



YEAH, HOT!
HOT HOT
HOT!

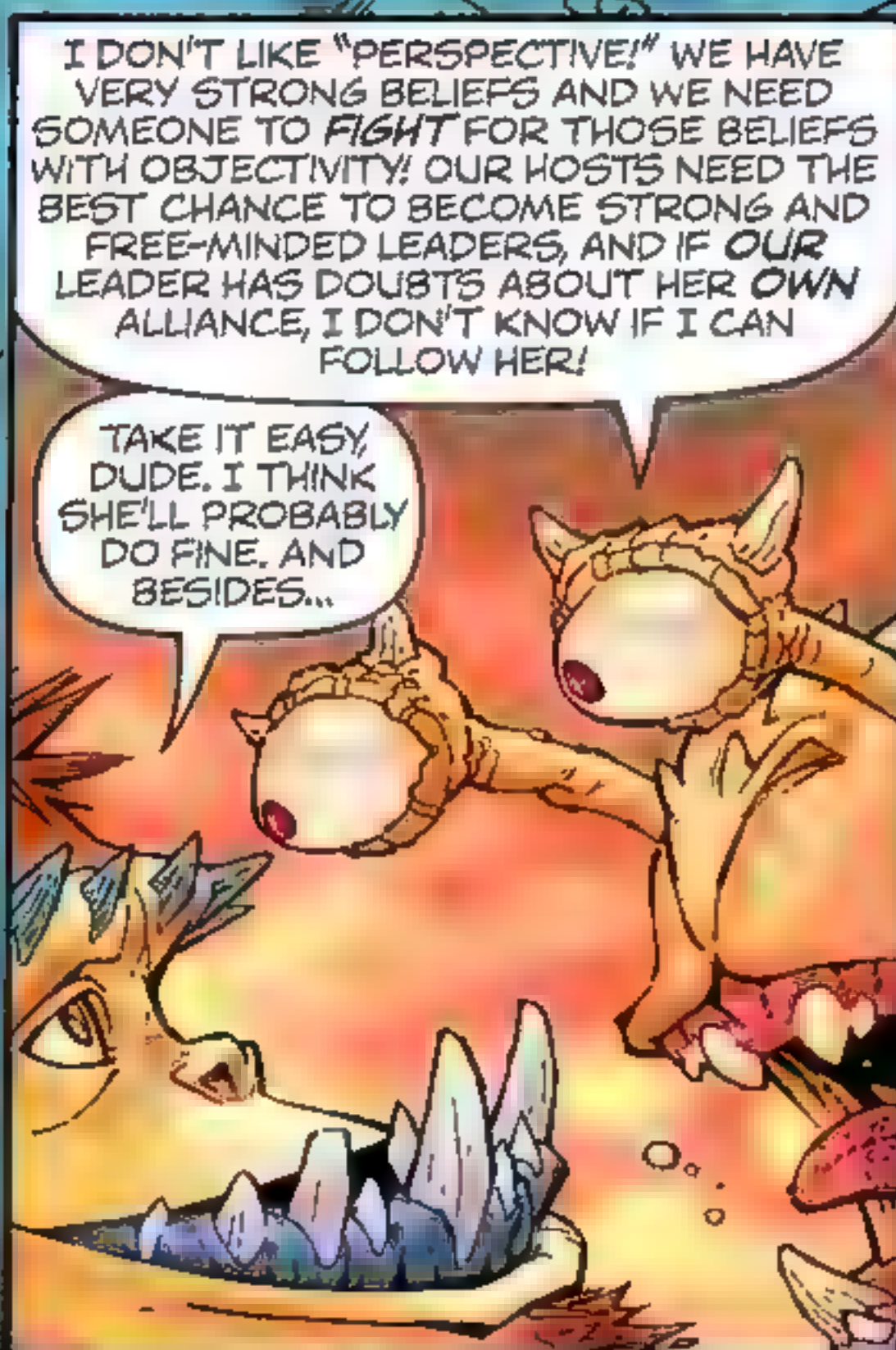
I THINK SHE'S HOT!



DIDN'T SHE USED TO BE AN "ELLY"?

I THINK SHE SWITCHED OVER AFTER THE STRIKE OF '71. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TRUST A CONVERT...

I DON'T KNOW... I THINK SHE COULD HAVE A DISTINCT PERSPECTIVE THAT REALLY GIVES US AN EDGE WITH THE ELYSIANS.

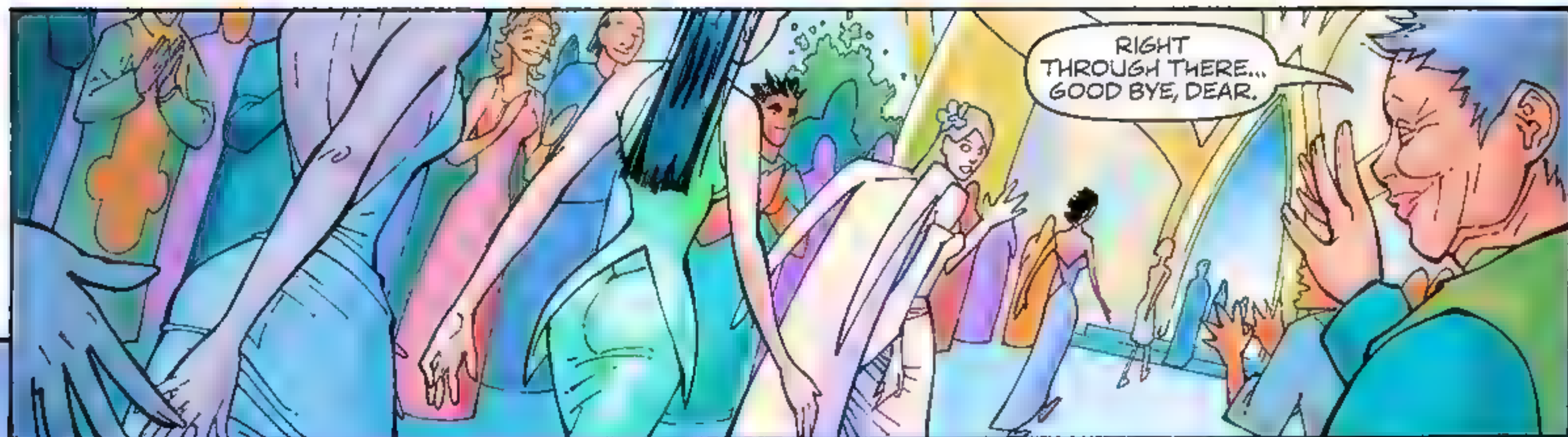


I DON'T LIKE "PERSPECTIVE!" WE HAVE VERY STRONG BELIEFS AND WE NEED SOMEONE TO FIGHT FOR THOSE BELIEFS WITH OBJECTIVITY! OUR HOSTS NEED THE BEST CHANCE TO BECOME STRONG AND FREE-MINDED LEADERS, AND IF OUR LEADER HAS DOUBTS ABOUT HER OWN ALLIANCE, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FOLLOW HER!

TAKE IT EASY, DUDE. I THINK SHE'LL PROBABLY DO FINE. AND BESIDES...



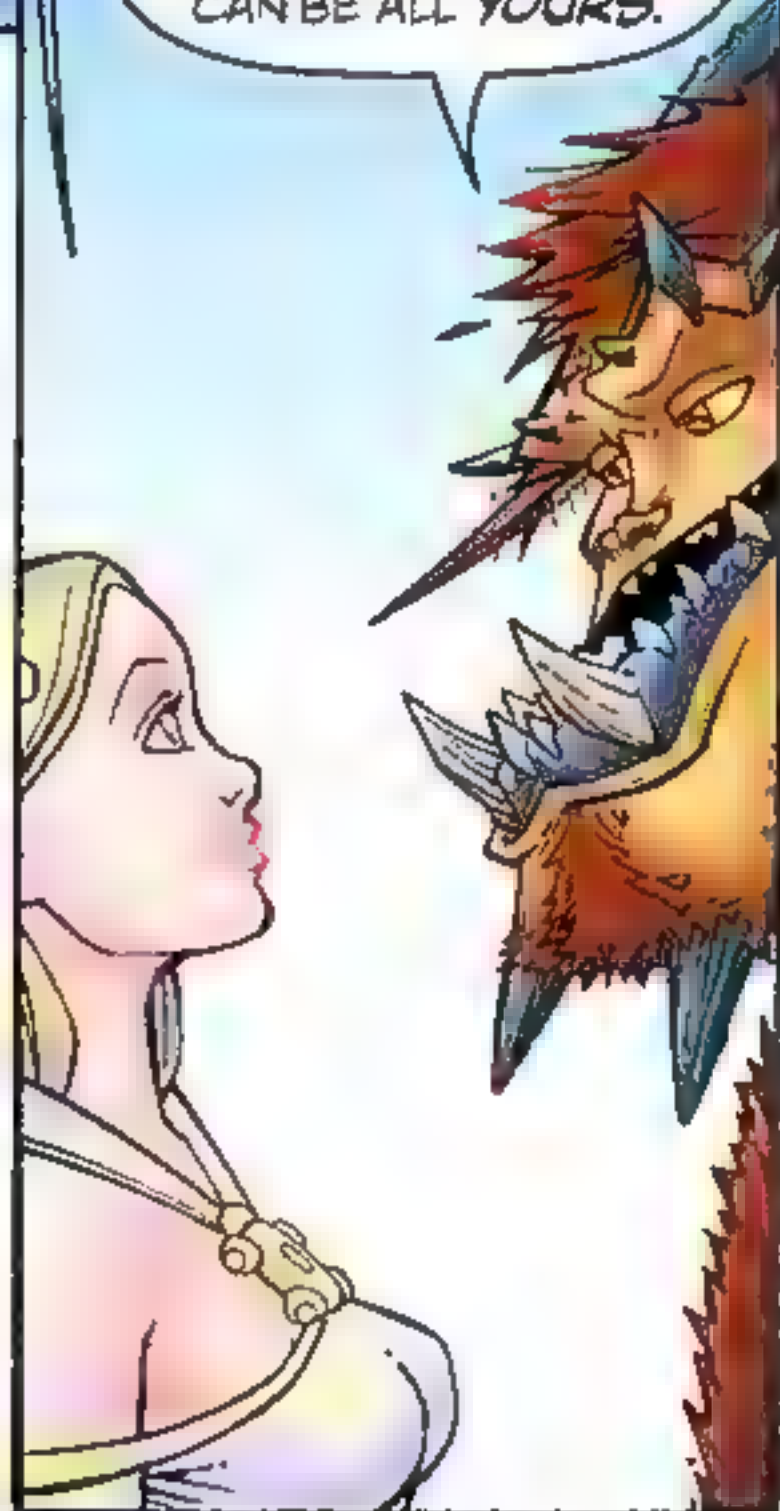
SHE IS HOT!



HELLO, MY NAME IS ANGELIA, BUT MOST PEOPLE JUST CALL ME ANGE.

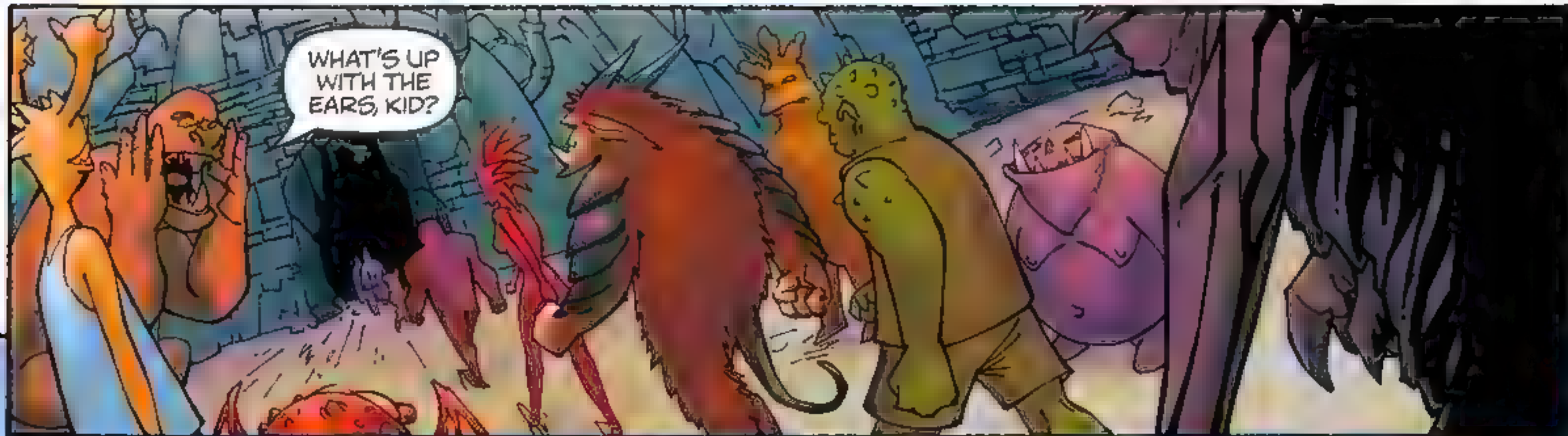
DEV, AS IN DEVILISHLY HANDSOME, CUPCAKE, HOW 'BOUT WE PROPERLY CONSUMMATE OUR LITTLE MEET AND GREET HERE? THE PLEASURE TO MEET ME CAN BE ALL YOURS.

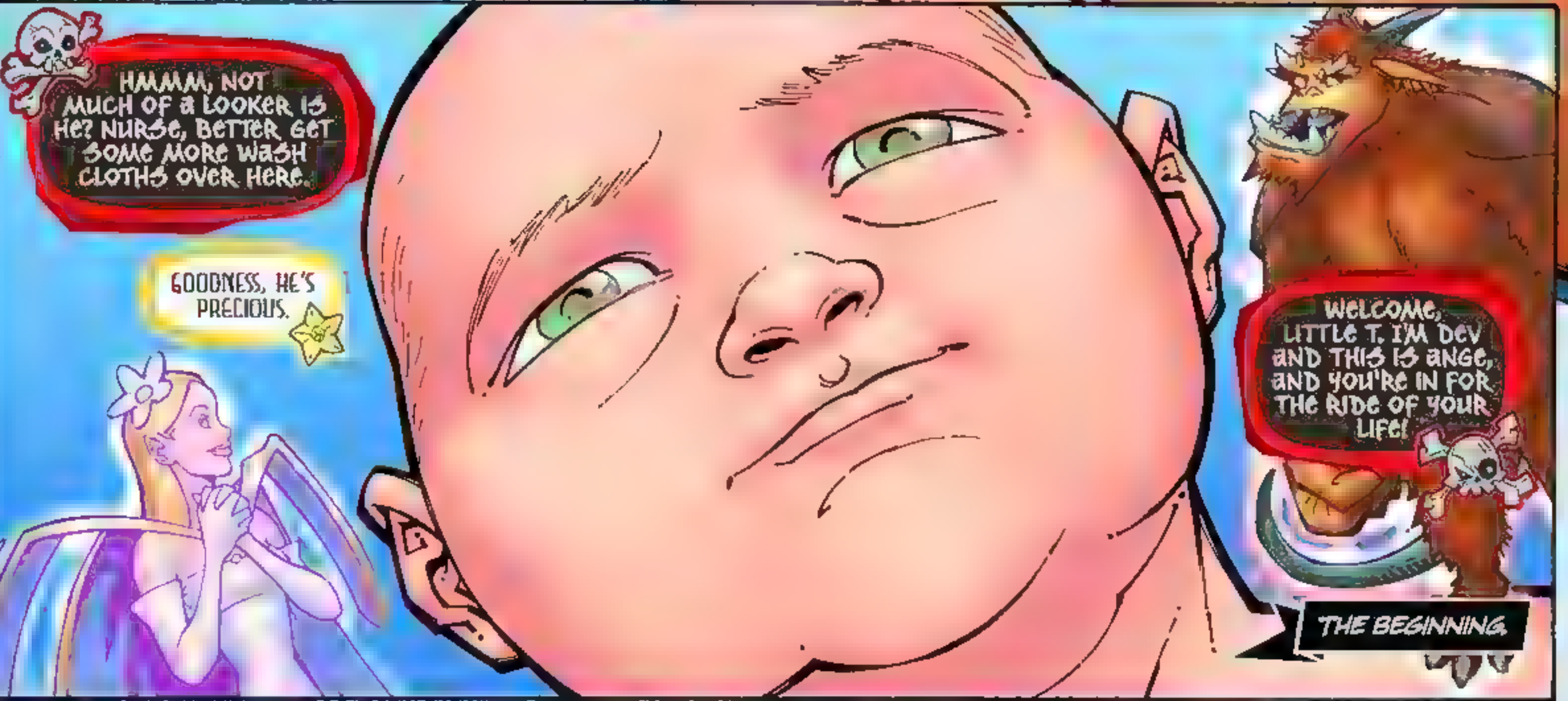
MR. DEV, THAT IS QUITE UNCALLED FOR AND EXTREMELY RUDE! WE ARE HERE TO PROVIDE THE PROPER ADVICE AND SOUND FOUNDATION FOR OUR SELECTED HOST TO MATURE INTO A RESPECTABLE ADULT HUMAN. THAT IS THE ONLY REASON WE ARE HERE.



AH WELL, YA CAN'T BLAME ME FOR TRYING SPEAKING OF HERE.

THE TRANSCENDING CHAMBER.





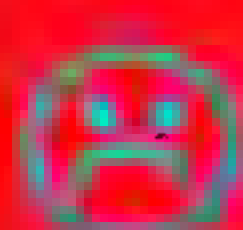
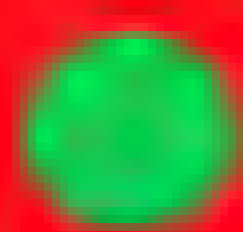
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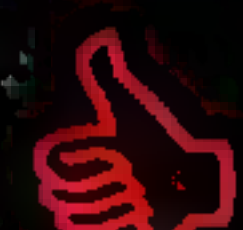
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VOLUME ONE ISSUE **ZERO**

Special Guest **Michael Turner** & **Frank Mastromauro**

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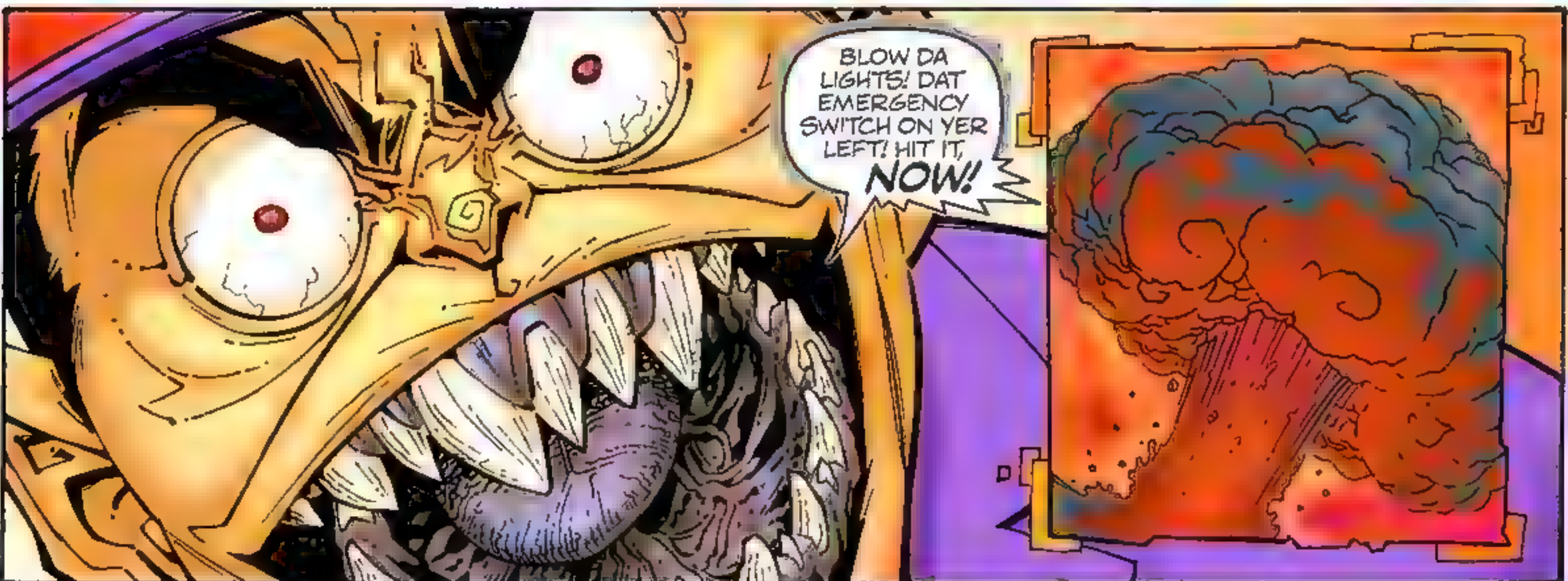
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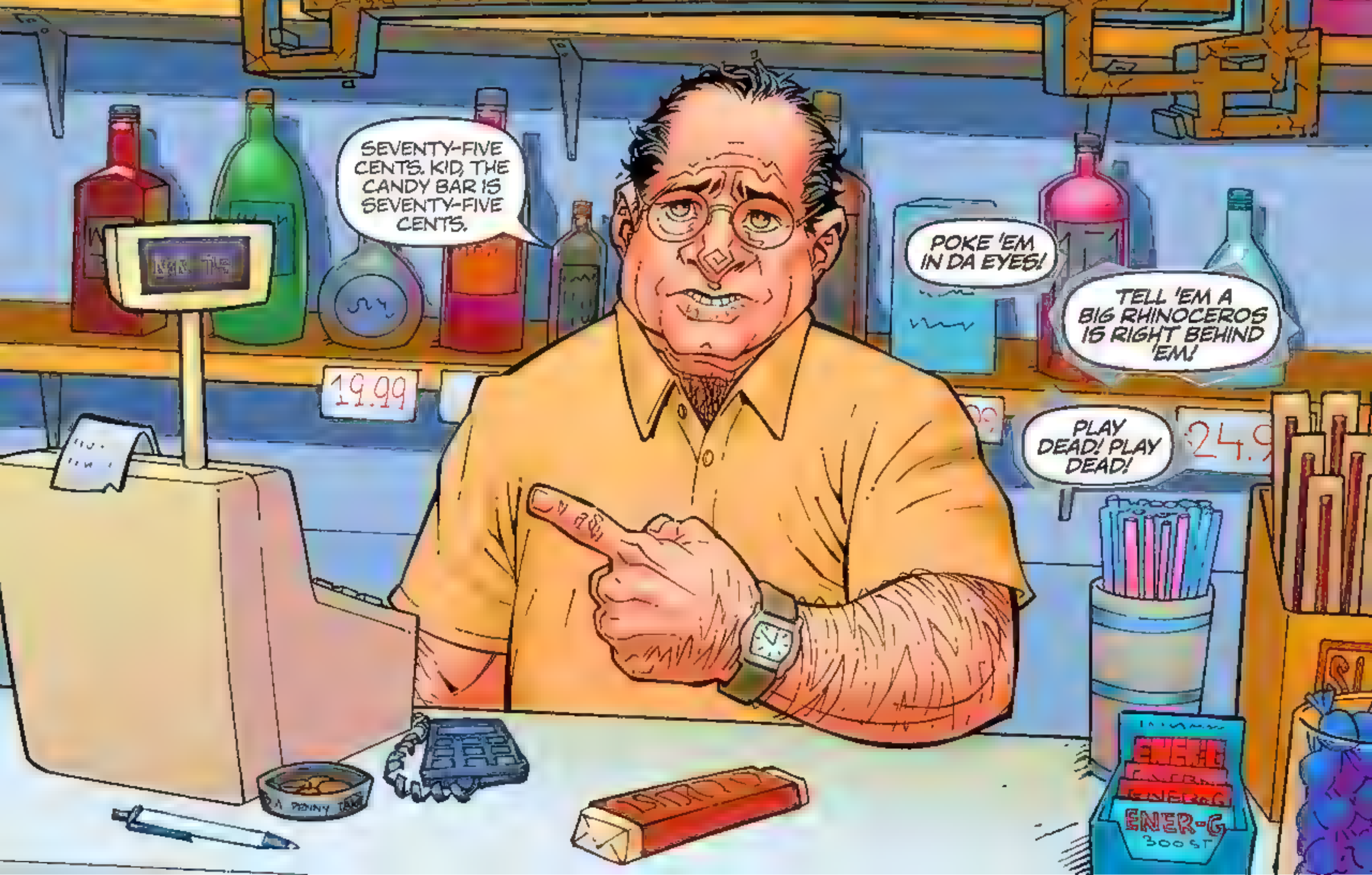
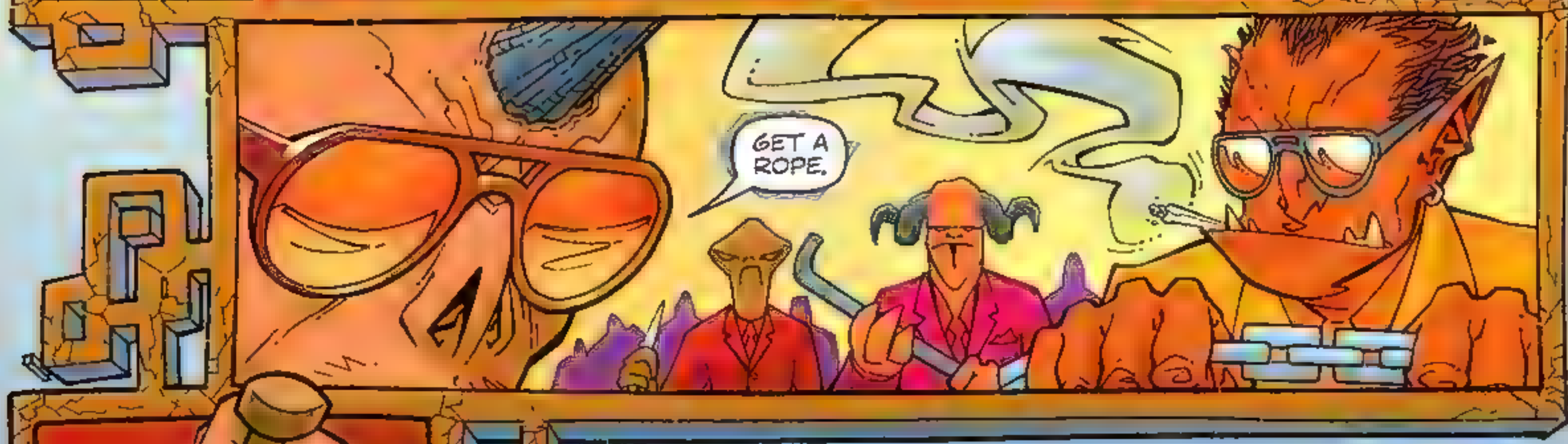
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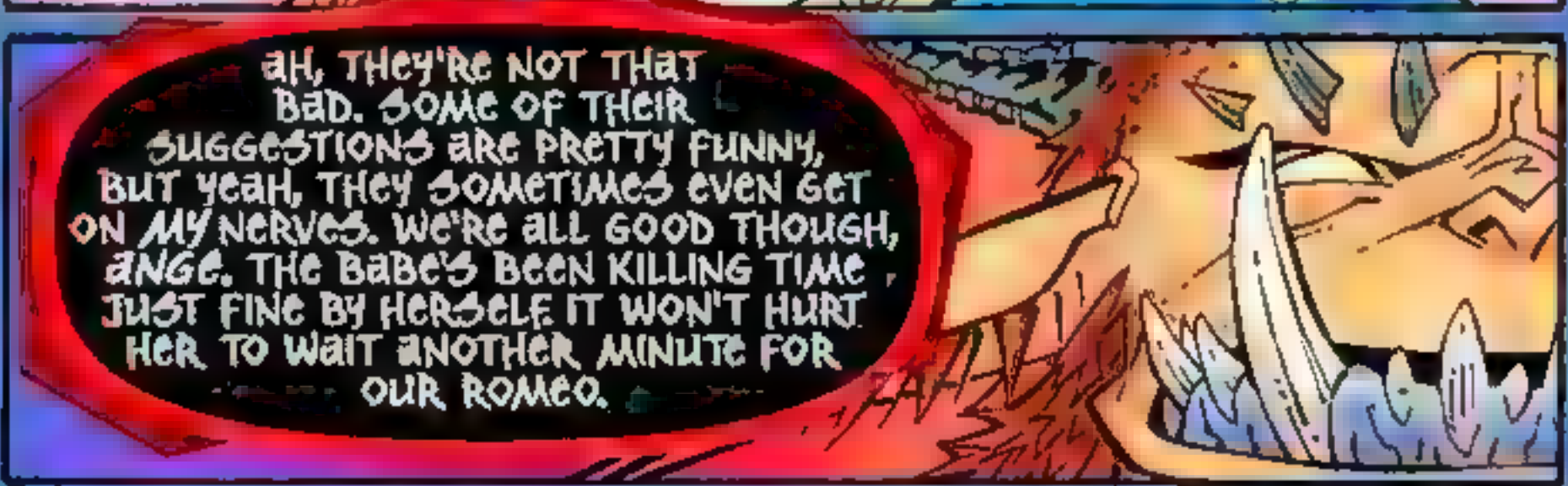
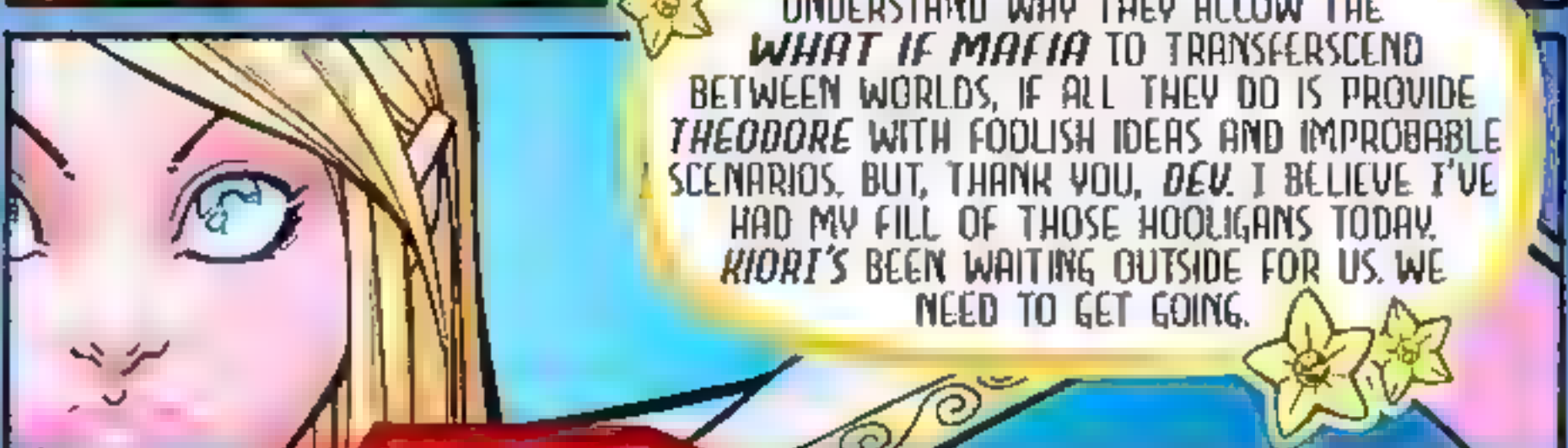
introducing THE DEARLY INFAMOUS
WHAH H! MAFIA
ALMOST STEPPING IN

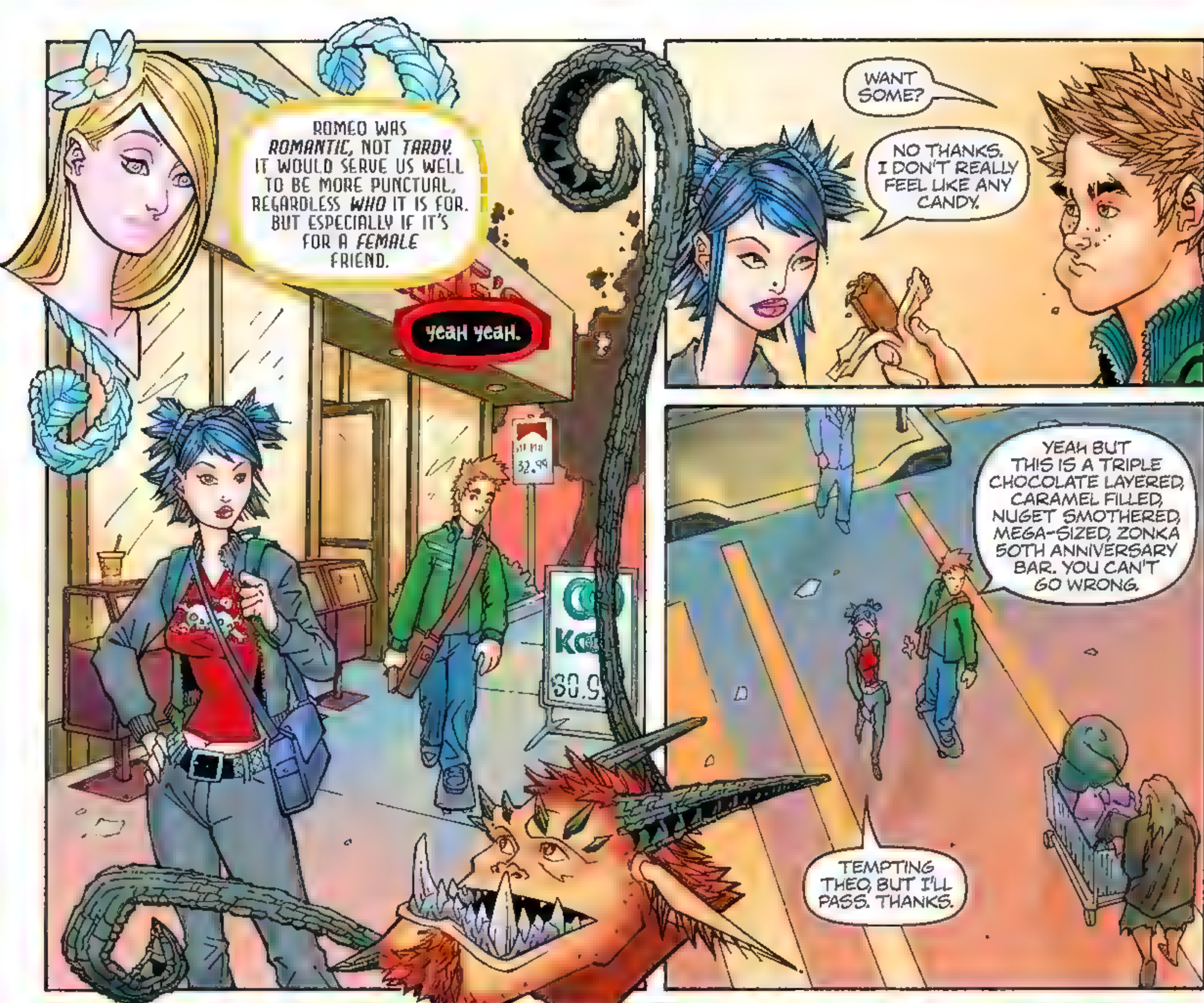
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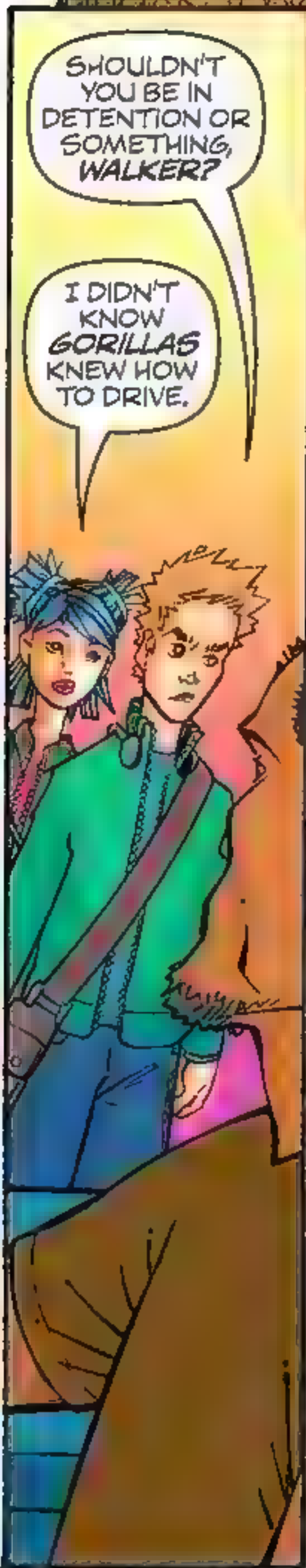
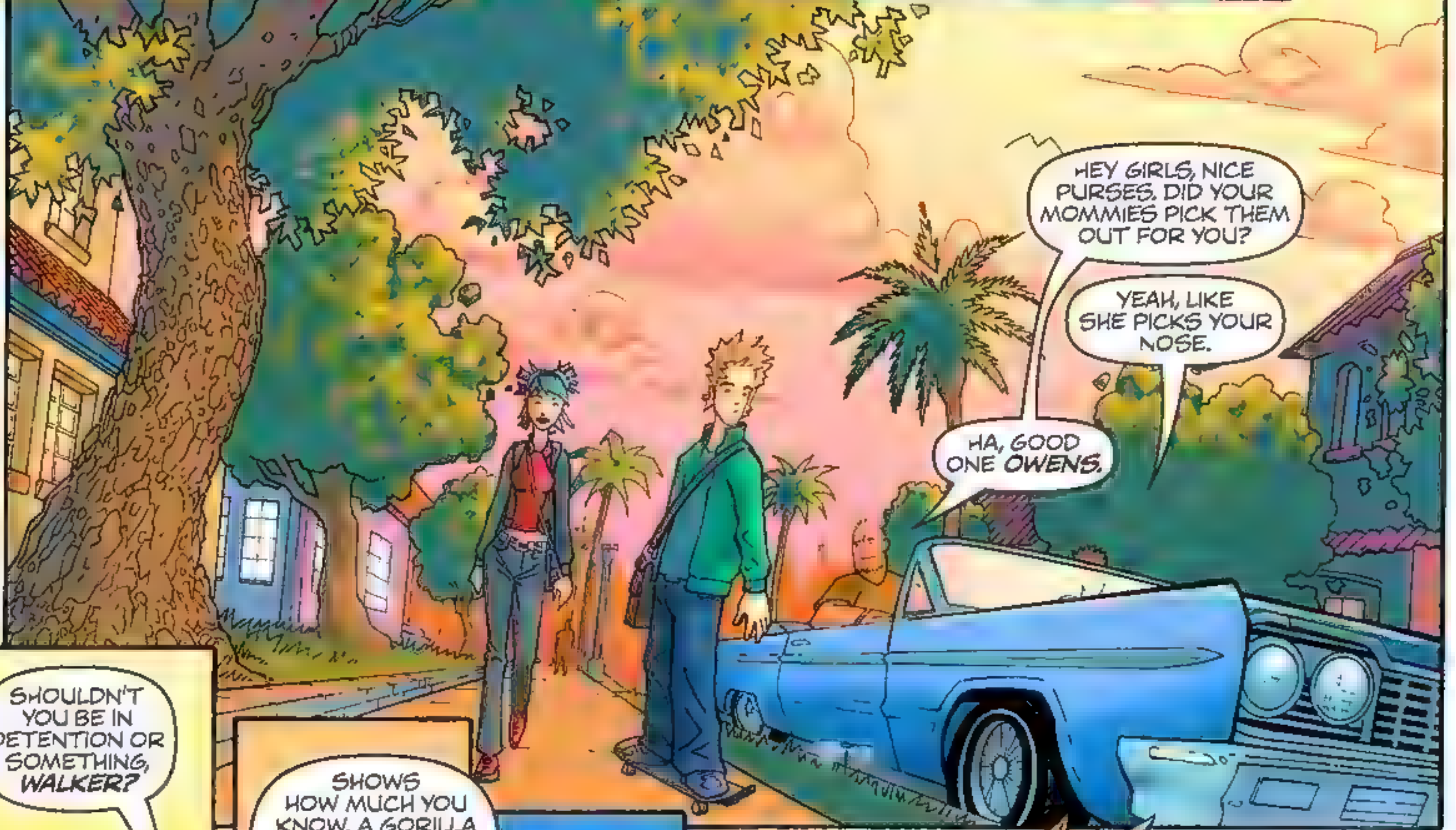
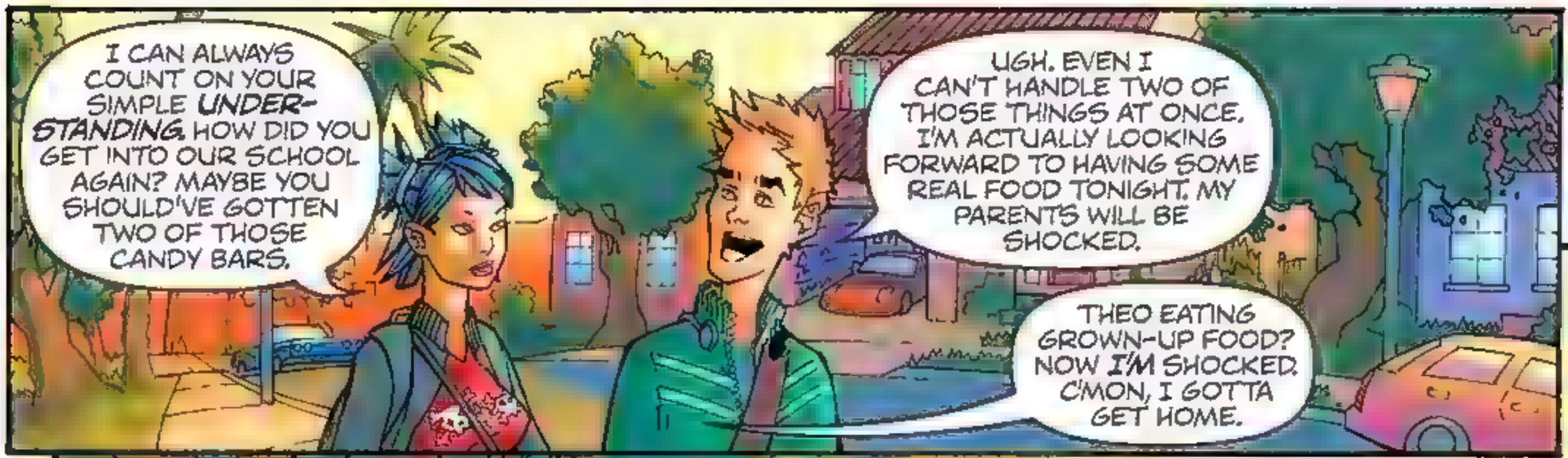


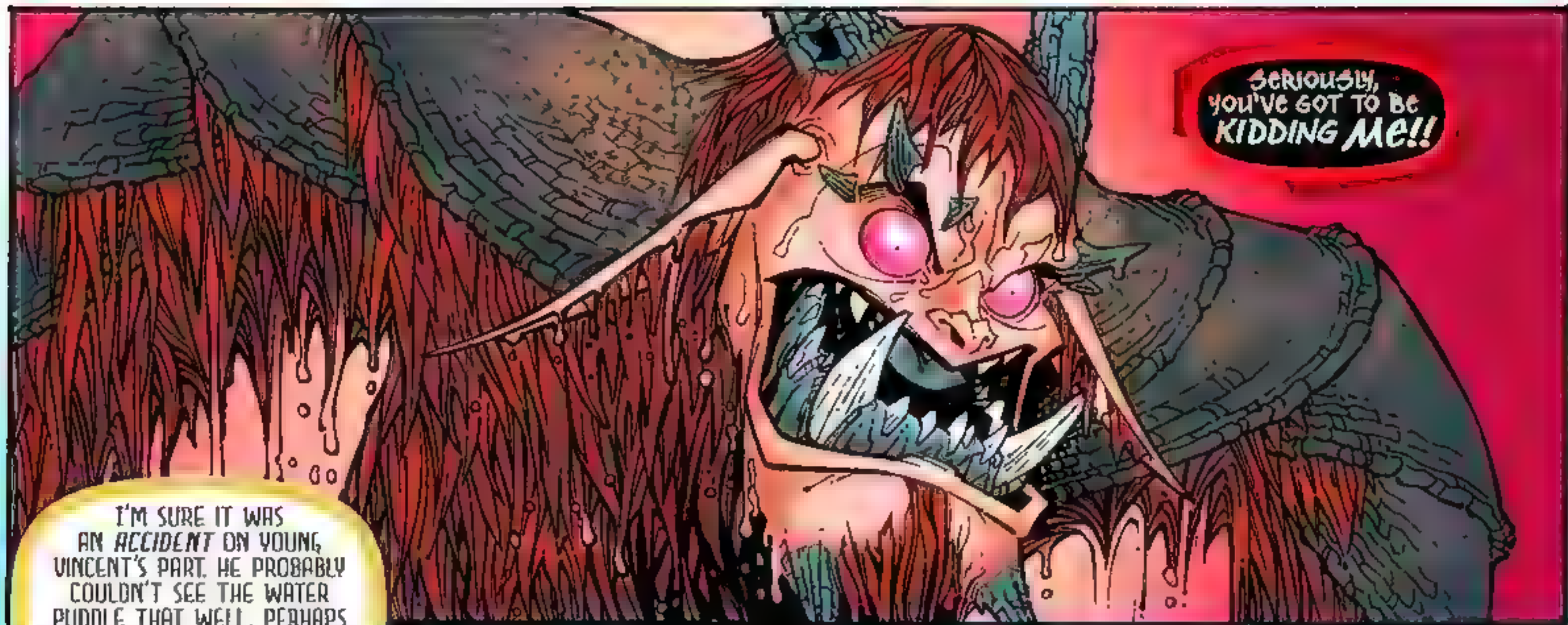








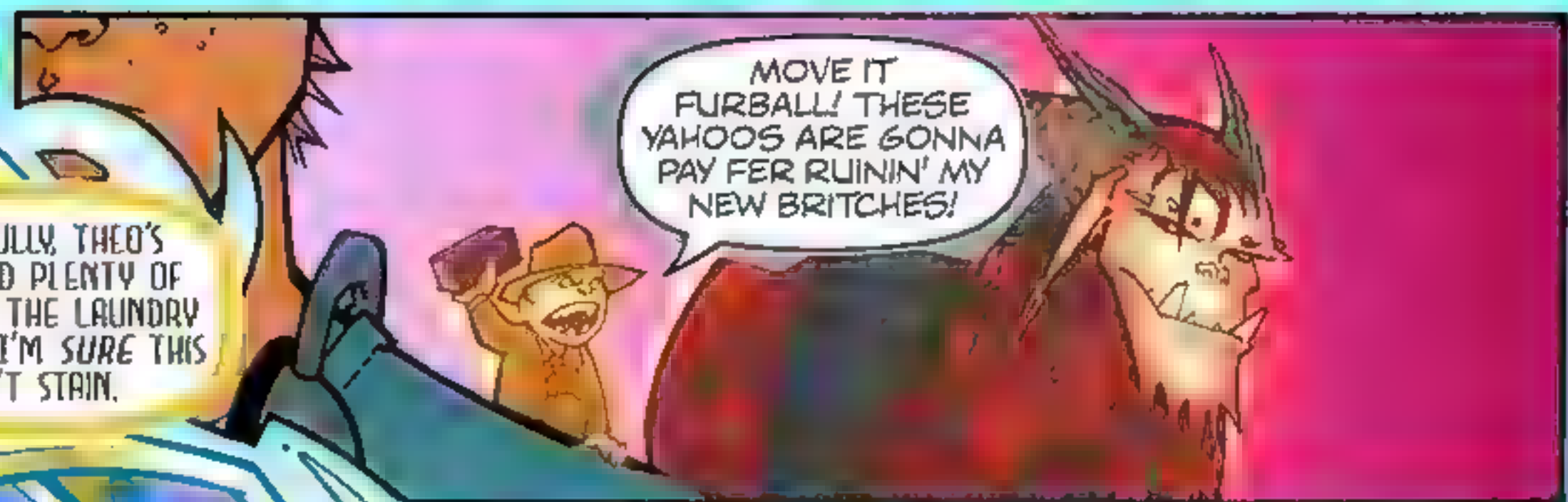




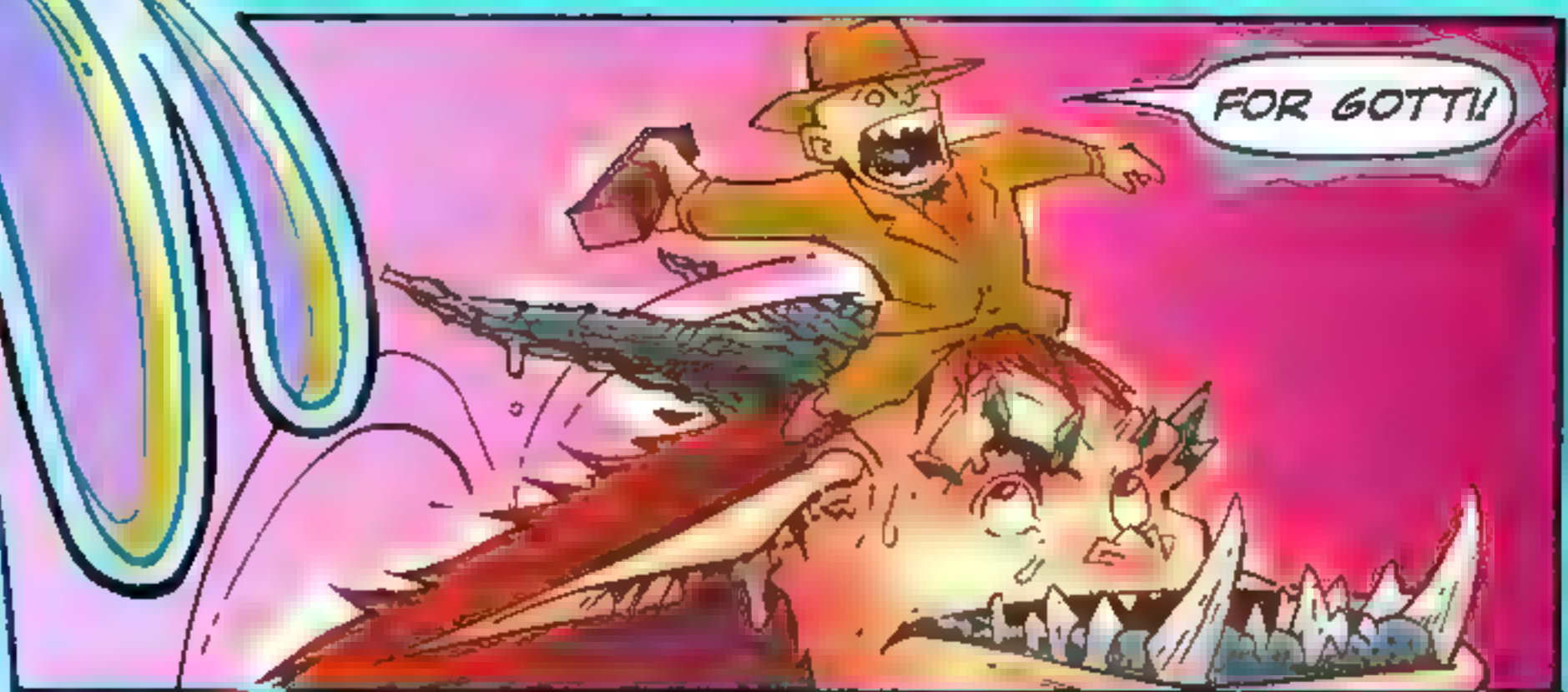
SERIOUSLY,
YOU'VE GOT TO BE
KIDDING ME!!

I'M SURE IT WAS
AN ACCIDENT ON YOUNG
VINCENT'S PART. HE PROBABLY
COULDN'T SEE THE WATER
PUDDLE THAT WELL. PERHAPS
THEO COULD TAKE PART IN HELPING
HIM BECOME A MORE CAUTIOUS
DRIVER. I'M SURE IT WOULD
BE APPRECIATED.

THANKFULLY, THEO'S
MOM USED PLENTY OF
STARCH IN THE LAUNDRY
TODAY, SO I'M SURE THIS
WON'T STAIN.



MOVE IT
FURBALL! THESE
YAHOOOS ARE GONNA
PAY FER RUININ' MY
NEW BRITCHES!

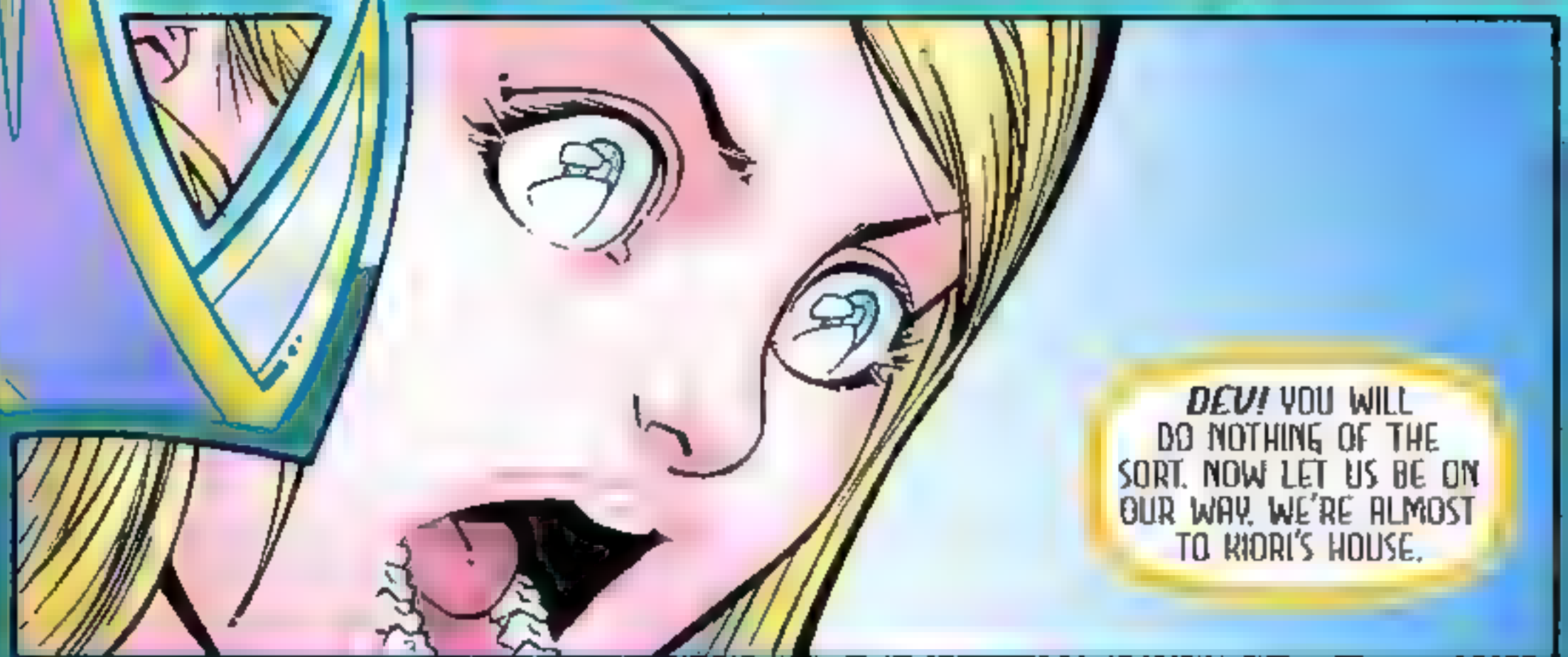


FOR GOTT!!

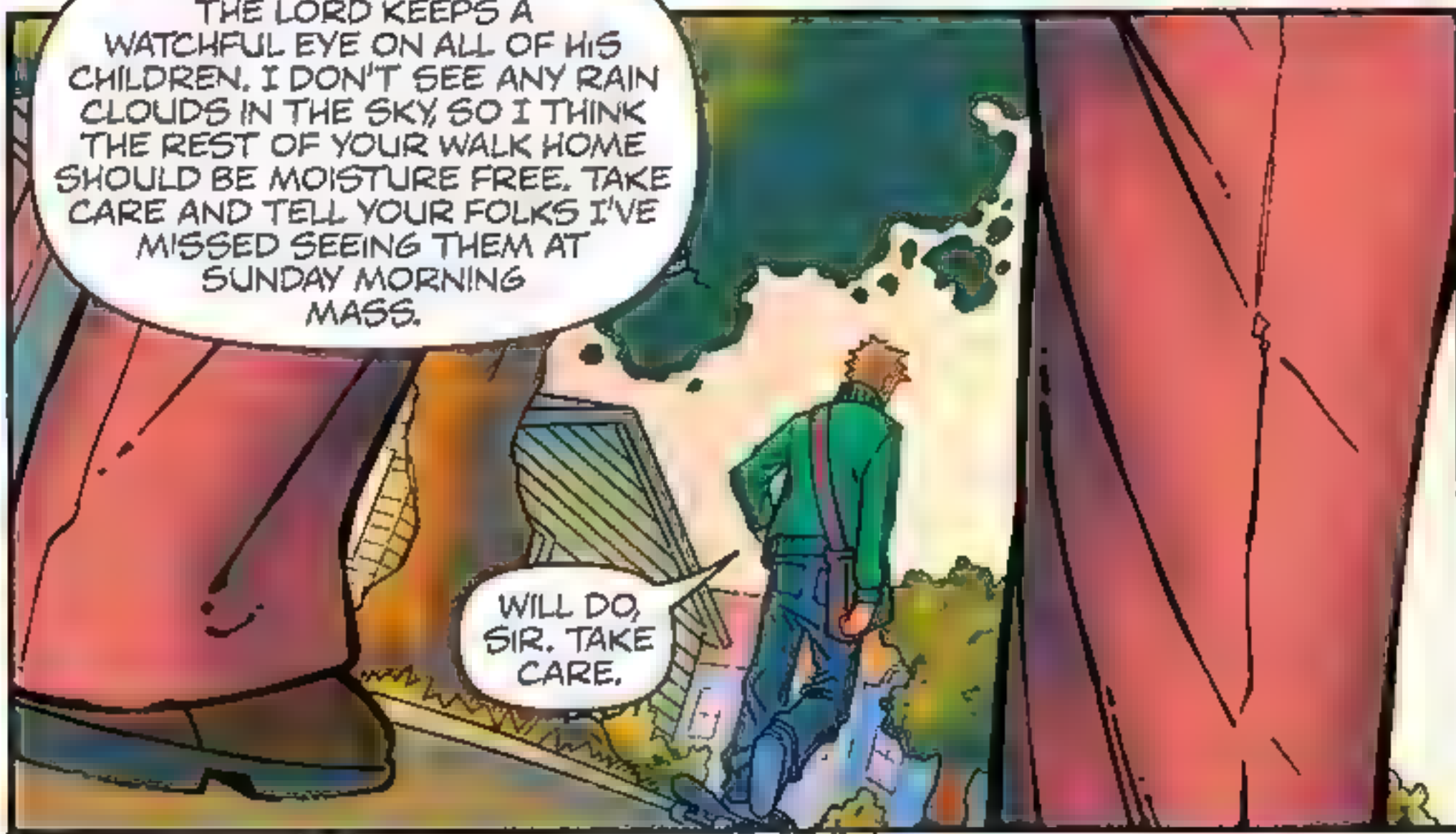
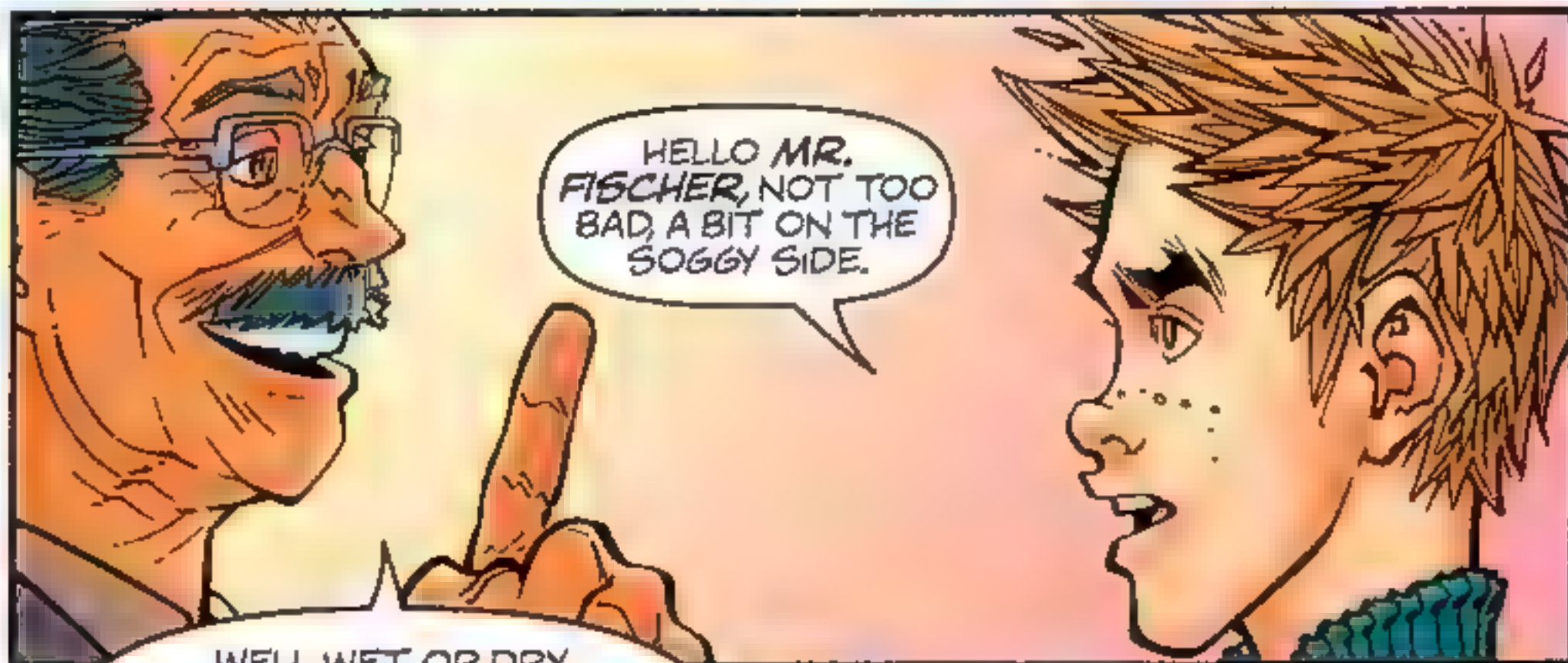
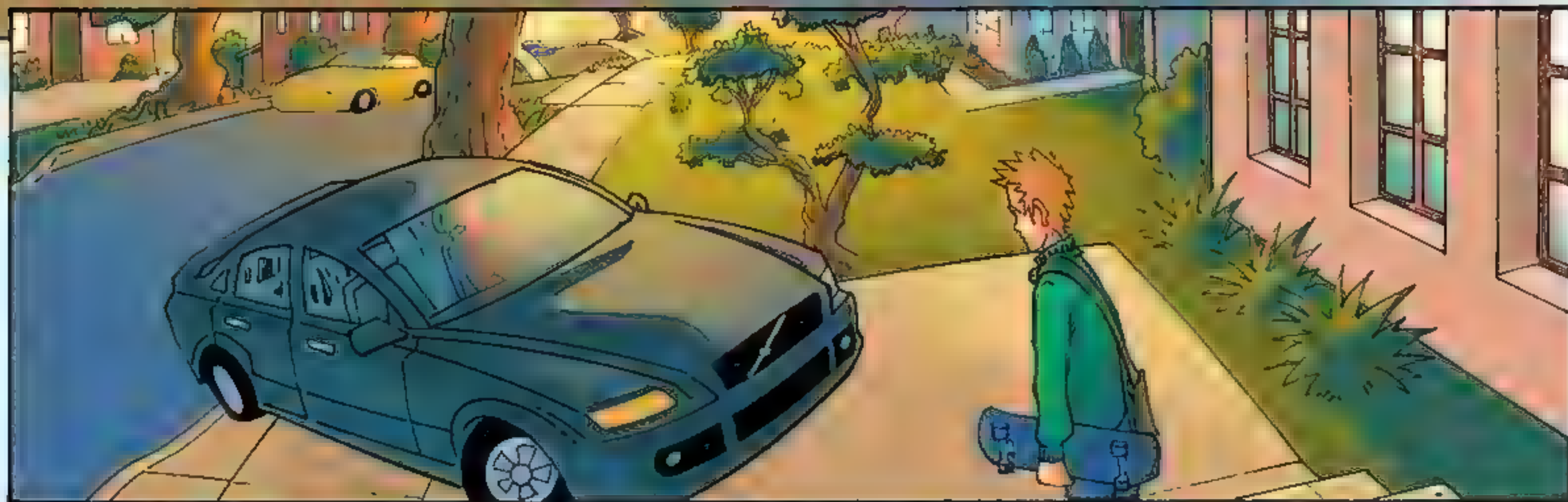
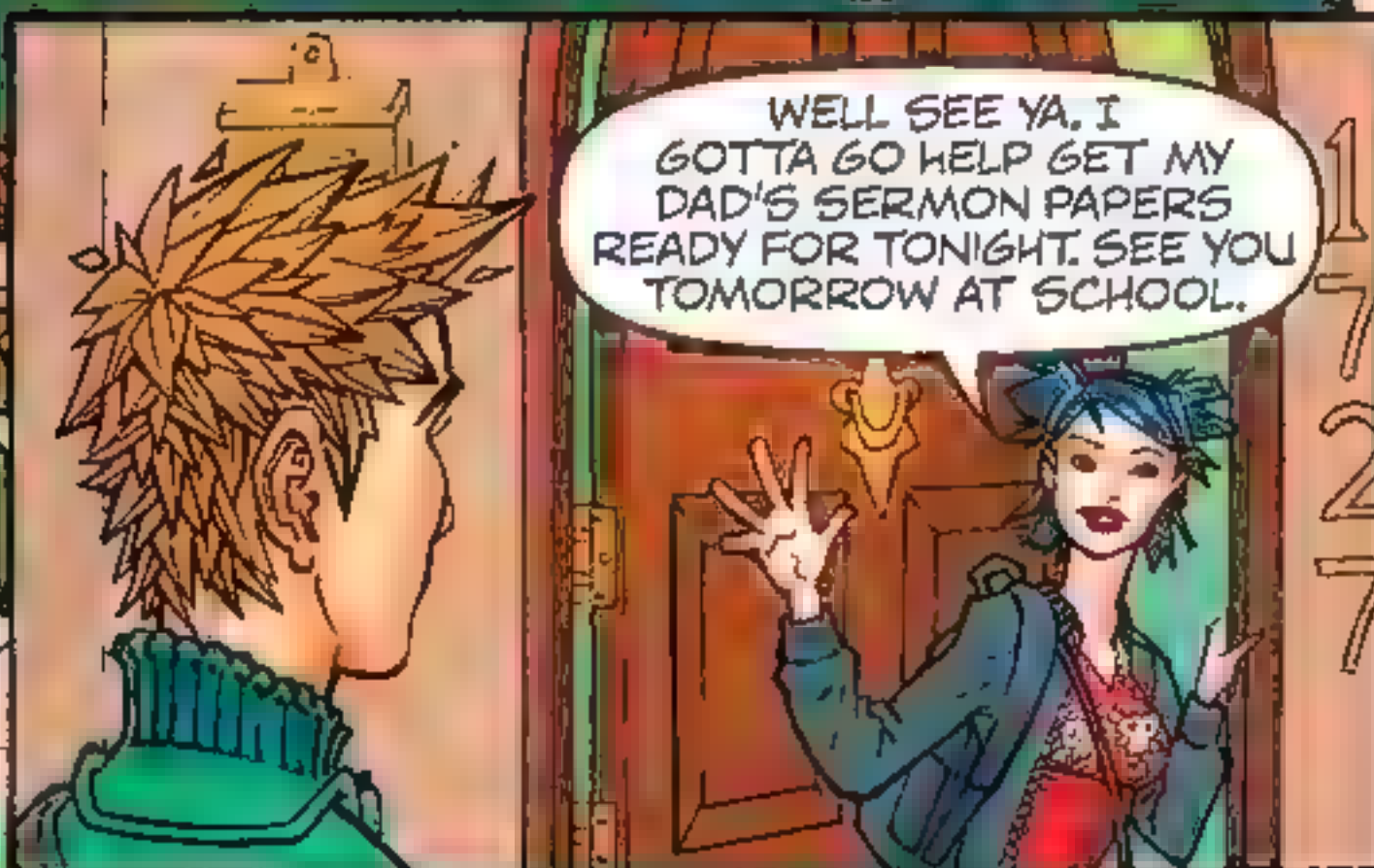


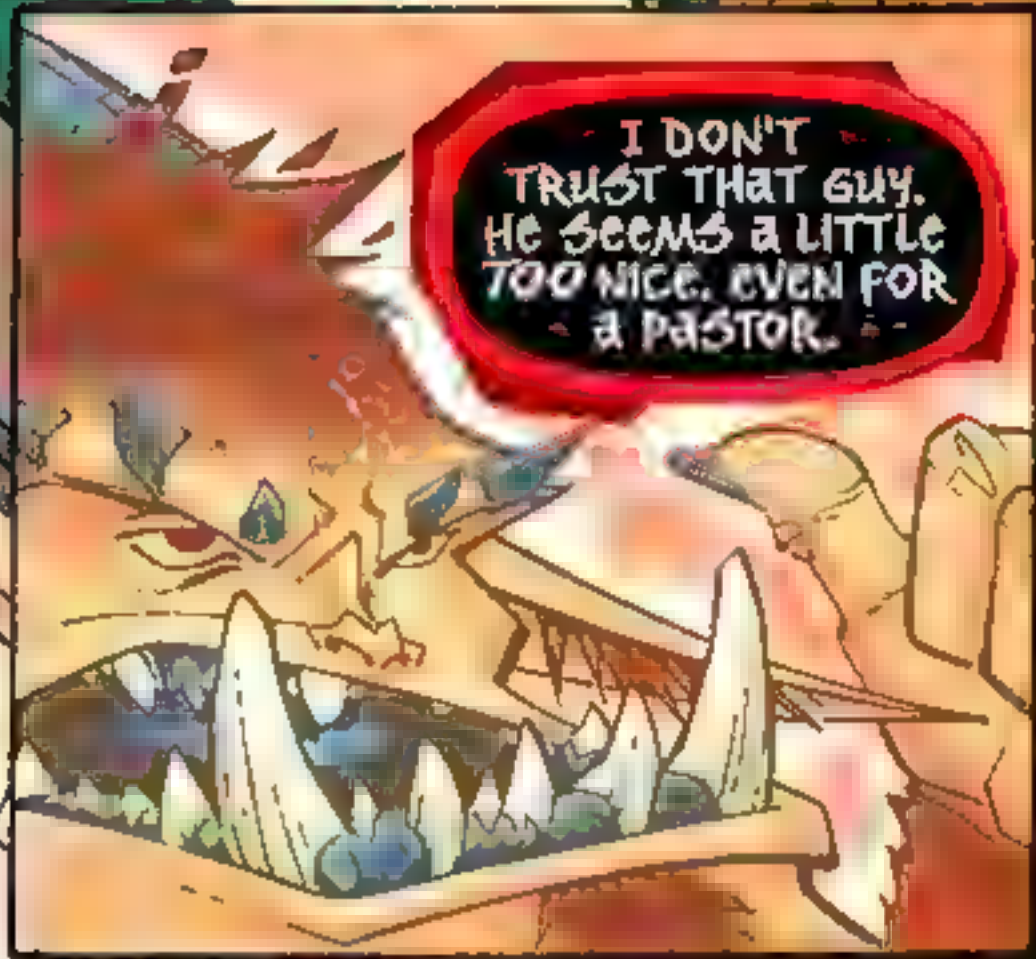
THAT'S IT! GET
OUTTA HERE NOW
BEFORE I TAKE THESE
BRICKS UPSIDE
YOUR HEAD!

AND NEXT TIME
WE SEE THAT OWENS
KID, I'M GONNA MAKE
HIM STAIN HIS---

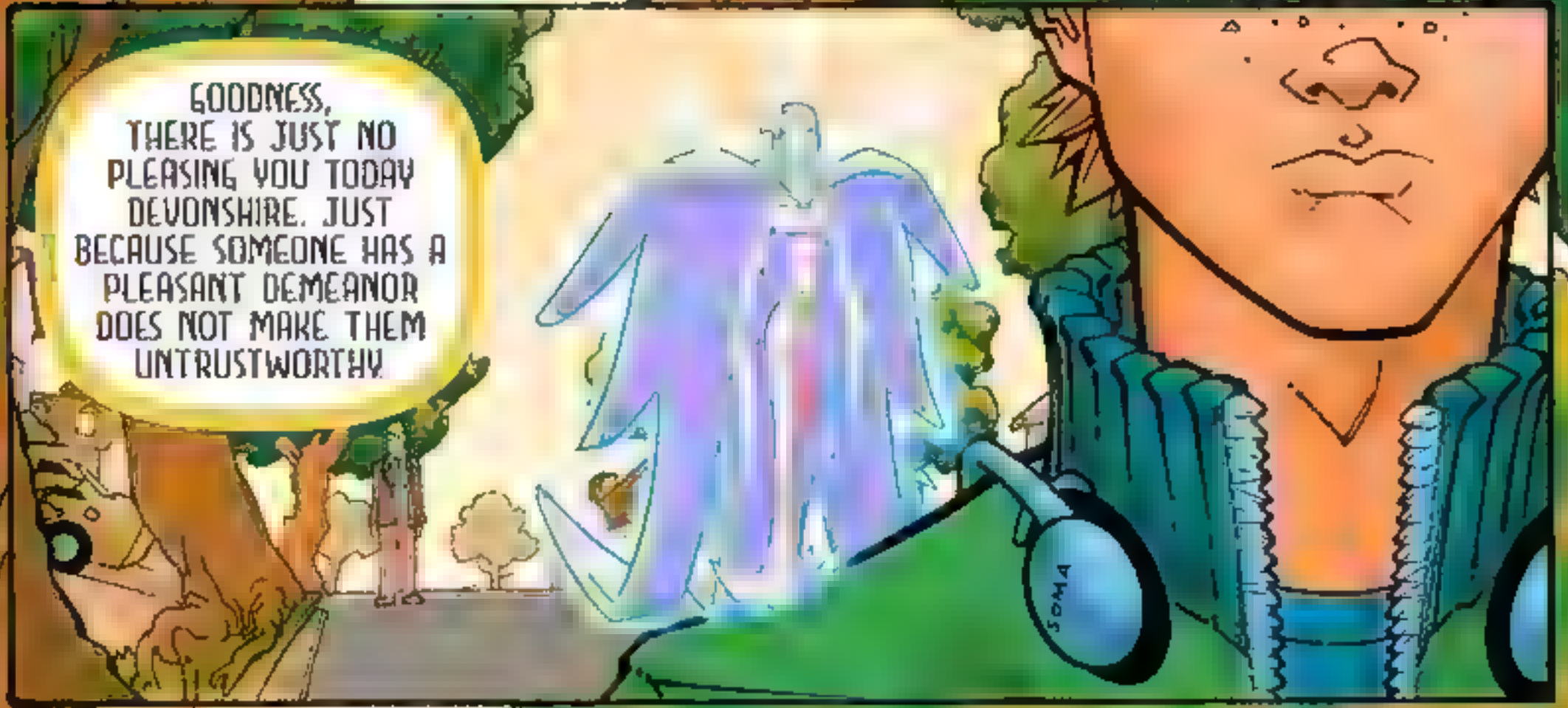


DEVI! YOU WILL
DO NOTHING OF THE
SORT. NOW LET US BE ON
OUR WAY. WE'RE ALMOST
TO KIORI'S HOUSE.

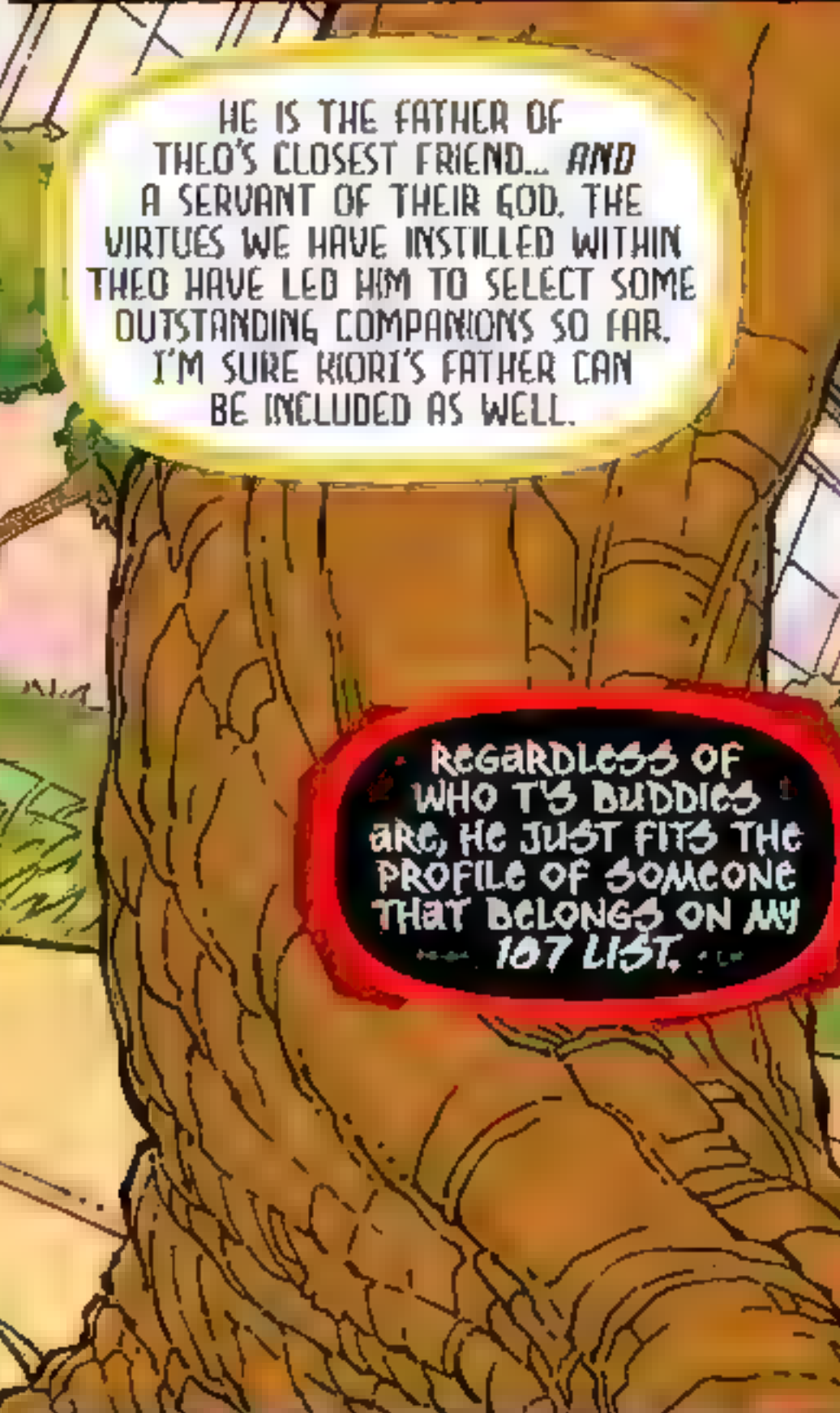




I DON'T TRUST THAT GUY. HE SEEMS A LITTLE TOO NICE, EVEN FOR A PASTOR.



GOODNESS, THERE IS JUST NO PLEASING YOU TODAY DEVONSHIRE. JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE HAS A PLEASANT DEMEANOR DOES NOT MAKE THEM UNTRUSTWORTHY.

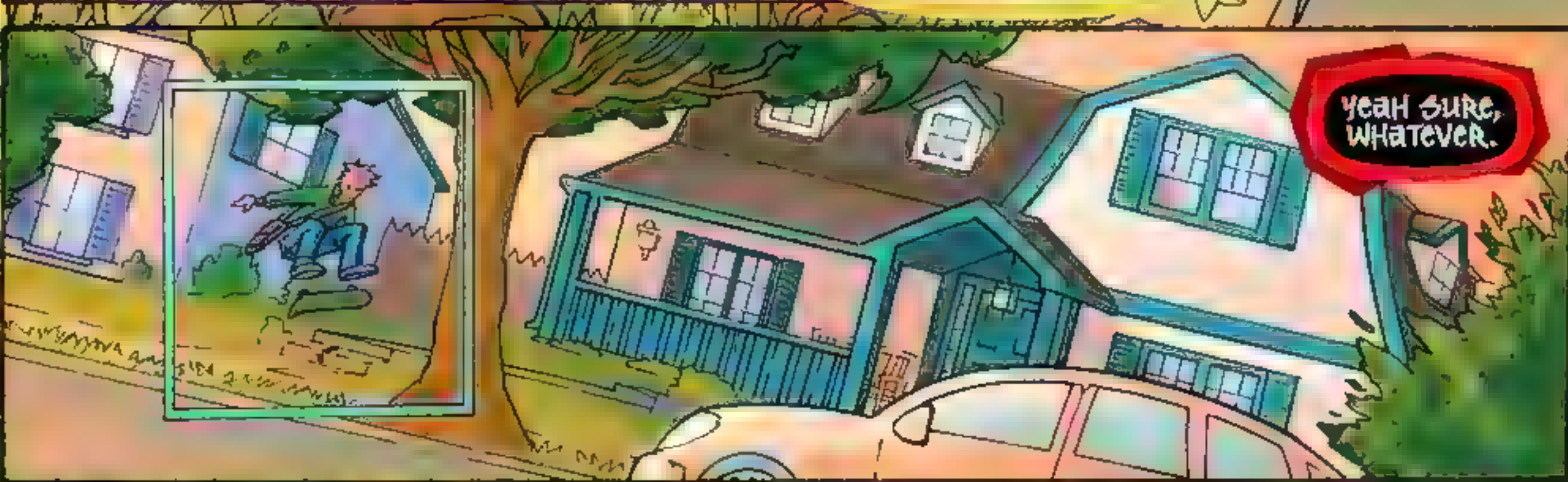


HE IS THE FATHER OF THEO'S CLOSEST FRIEND... AND A SERVANT OF THEIR GOD. THE VIRTUES WE HAVE INSTILLED WITHIN THEO HAVE LED HIM TO SELECT SOME OUTSTANDING COMPANIONS SO FAR. I'M SURE KIORI'S FATHER CAN BE INCLUDED AS WELL.

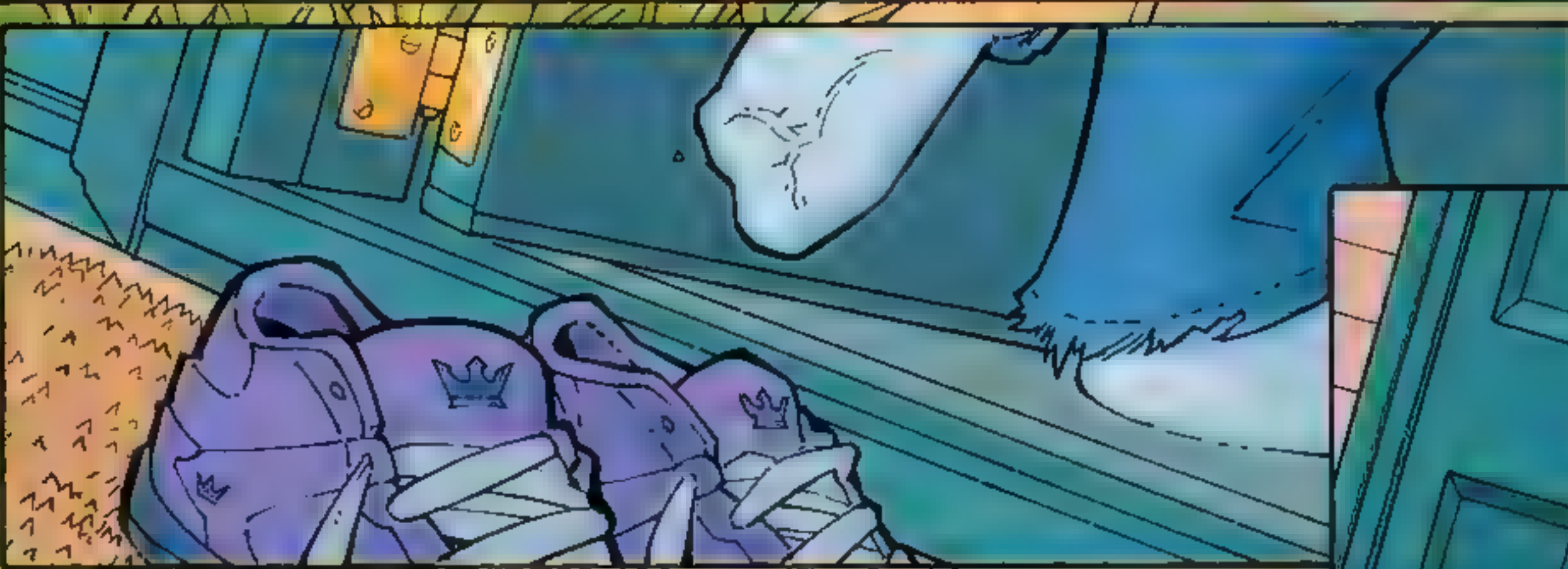
REGARDLESS OF WHO T'S BUDDIES ARE, HE JUST FITS THE PROFILE OF SOMEONE THAT BELONGS ON MY 107 LIST.



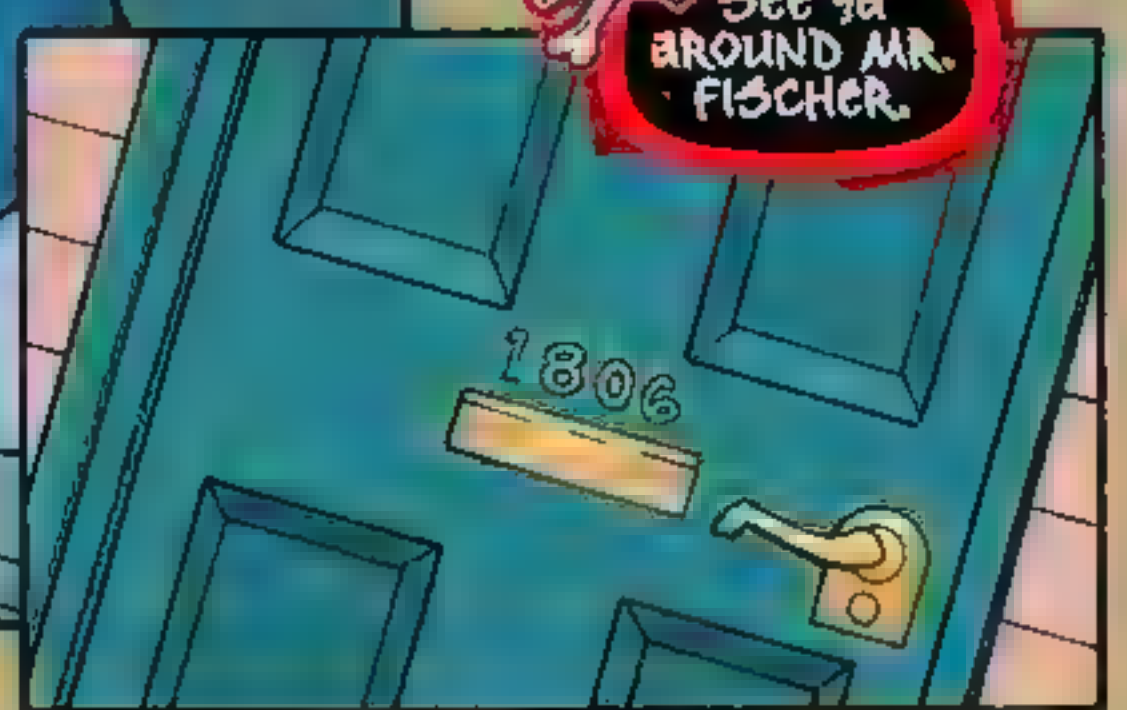
DEV!! WE WILL NOT HAVE THOSE THOUGHTS IN OUR HEAD TODAY! MRS. FELDMAN PROVIDED THEO WITH OVER HALF A CHAPTER'S WORTH OF ECONOMICS FOR TONIGHT'S ASSIGNMENT. LET'S START FOCUSING ON THAT IF YOU WILL PLEASE. WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO



YEAH SURE, WHATEVER.



SEE YA AROUND MR. FISCHER.





MUST HURRY.
MUST NOT LET THE
'EXALTED ONE' WAIT.
ANSWER THE CALL.
ANSWER THE CALL.



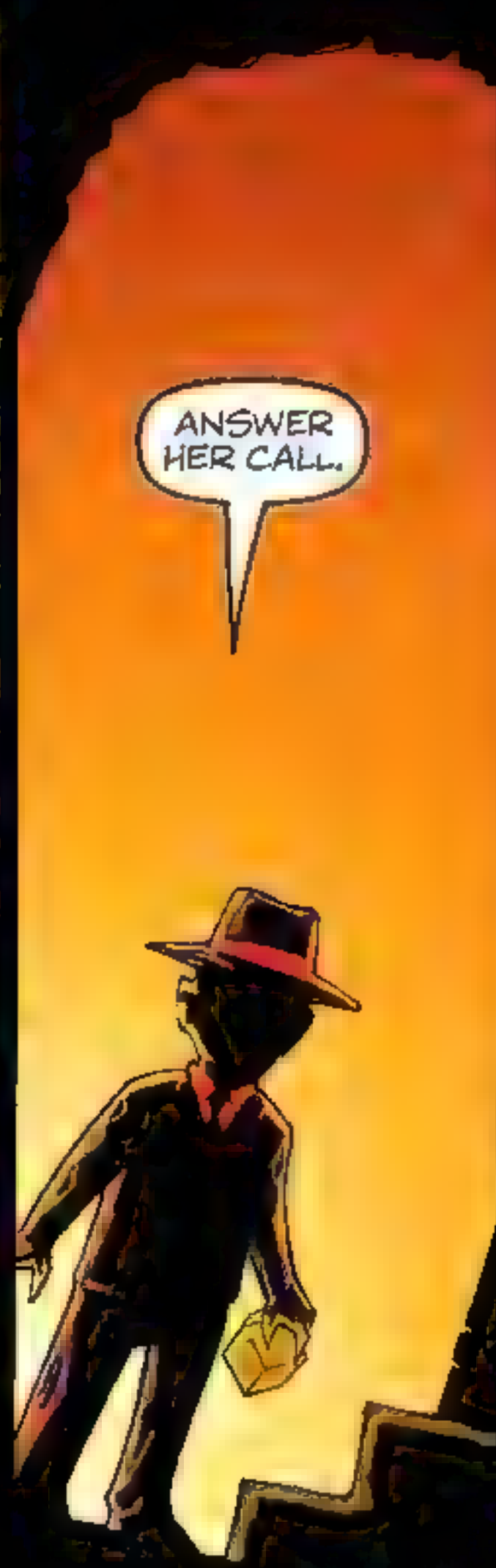
DO WHAT THE
'EXALTED ONE'
BECKONS. MUST
HURRY.



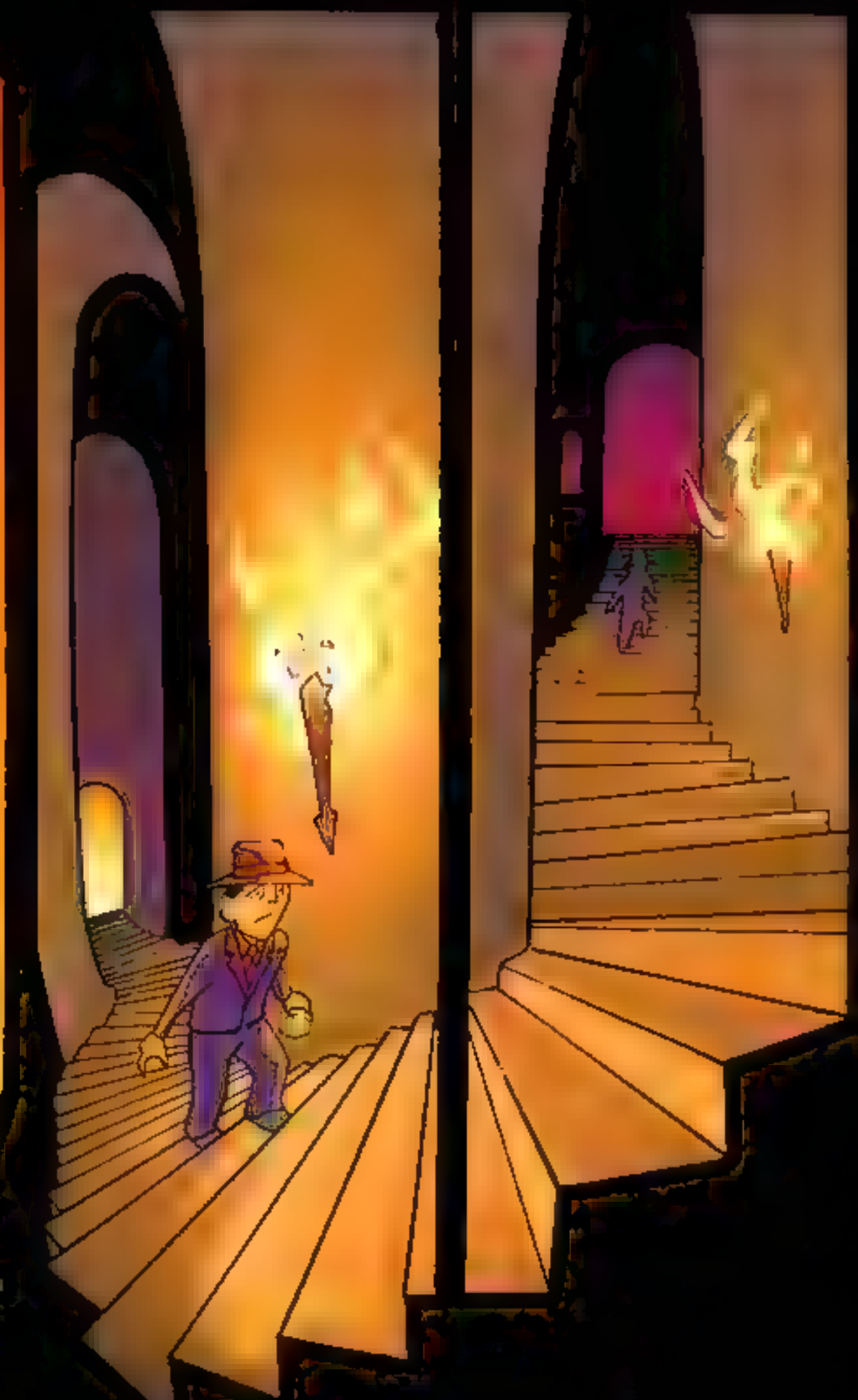
WHAT
DO YOU
PRESENT?



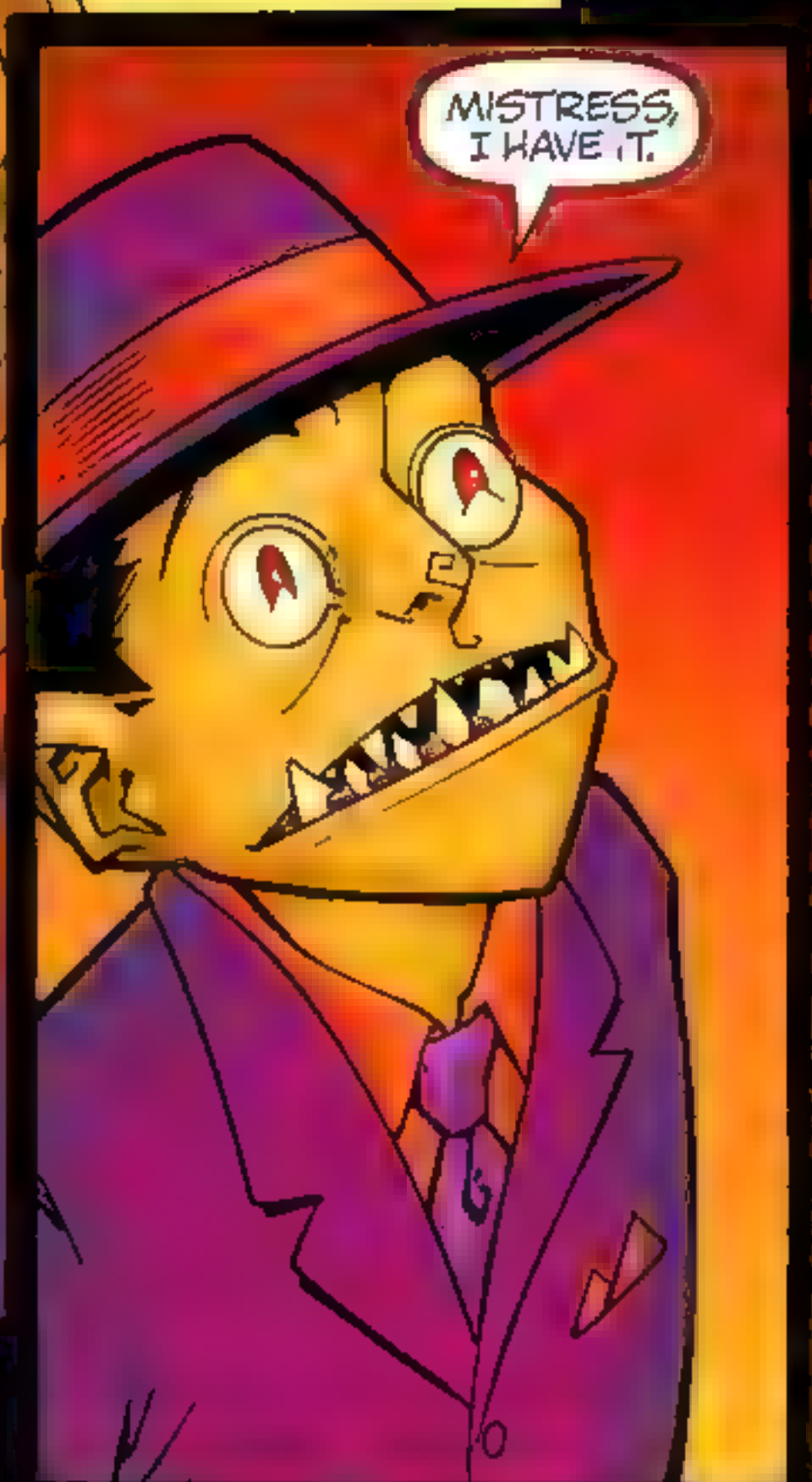
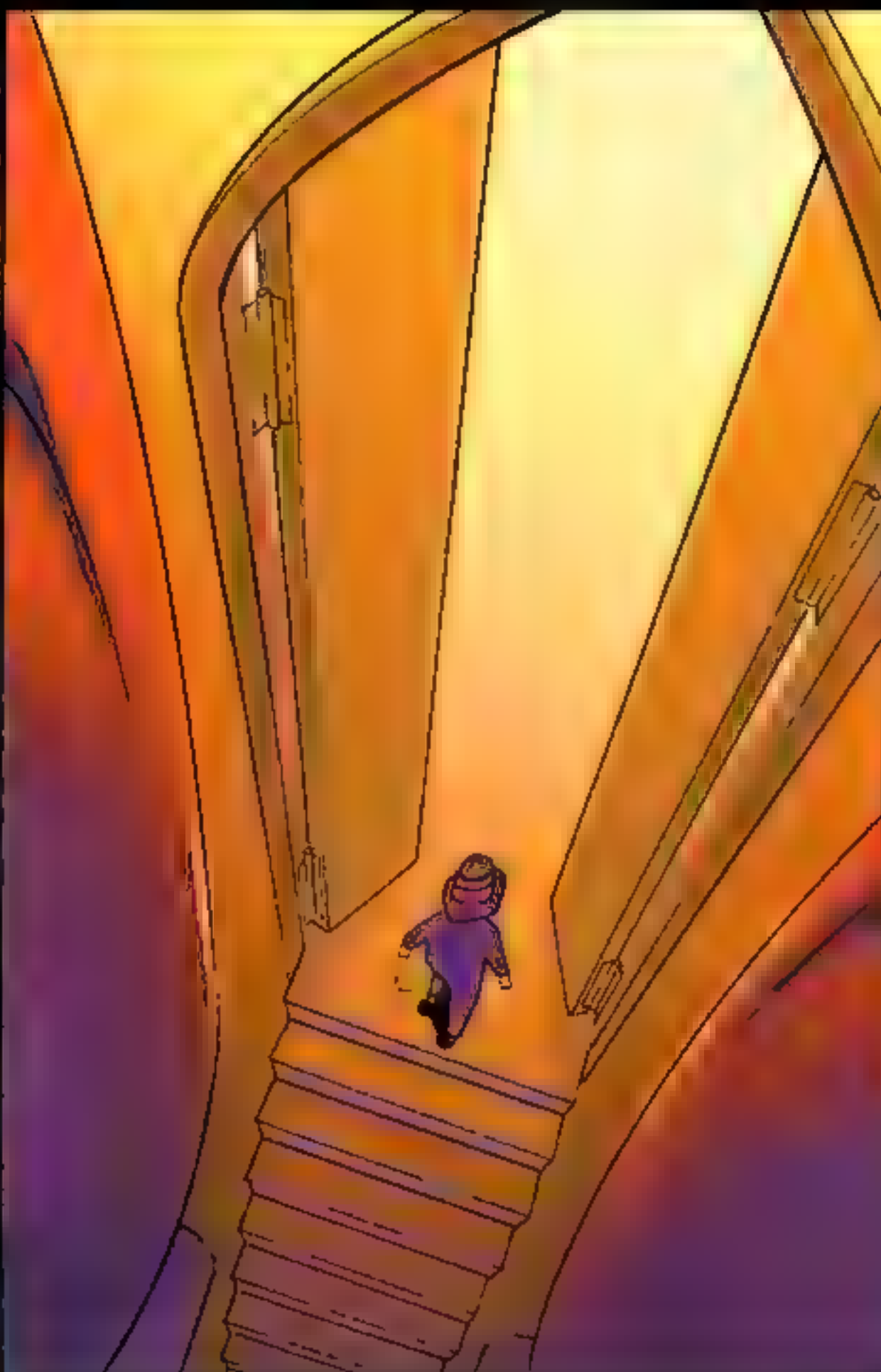
THIS.



ANSWER
HER CALL.



PROCEED.



MISTRESS,
I HAVE IT.

IT'S ABOUT
TIME. THERE IS
MUCH WORK TO
BE DONE.



TO BE CONTINUED.

ASPEN
Vol. 1

#1
OF 8
COVER A

SHRUGGED



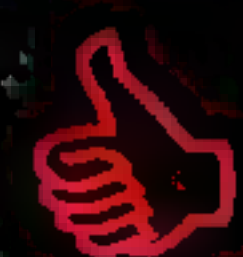
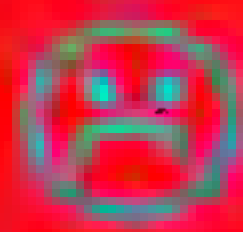
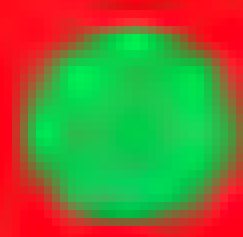
NICK GARDNER Sotelo

ASPEN
Vol. 1

#1
OF 8
COVER B

SHROOED





SHRUGGED

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Beth Sotelo



John Starr

Letters:

Dreamer Design

VOLUME ONE ISSUE **ONE** OF EIGHT

Story by **Michael Turner** & **Frank Mastromauro**

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SANTA MONICA, CA.

ME, MYSELF AND I... PSYCHOLOGY USED TO EXPLAIN THE INNER DIALOGUE THAT OCCURS WITHIN EVERY ONE OF US. EACH TIME YOU DEBATE WITH YOURSELF OVER VARIOUS DECISIONS, THESE VOICES IN YOUR HEAD SEEM TO BE TRYING TO CONVINCE YOU TO TAKE ONE DECISIVE ACTION OR ANOTHER. IT'S THE ID AND SUPEREGO, OR THE INNER CHILD ARGUING WITH THE LOGICAL ADULT. DUDE... WHATEVER.

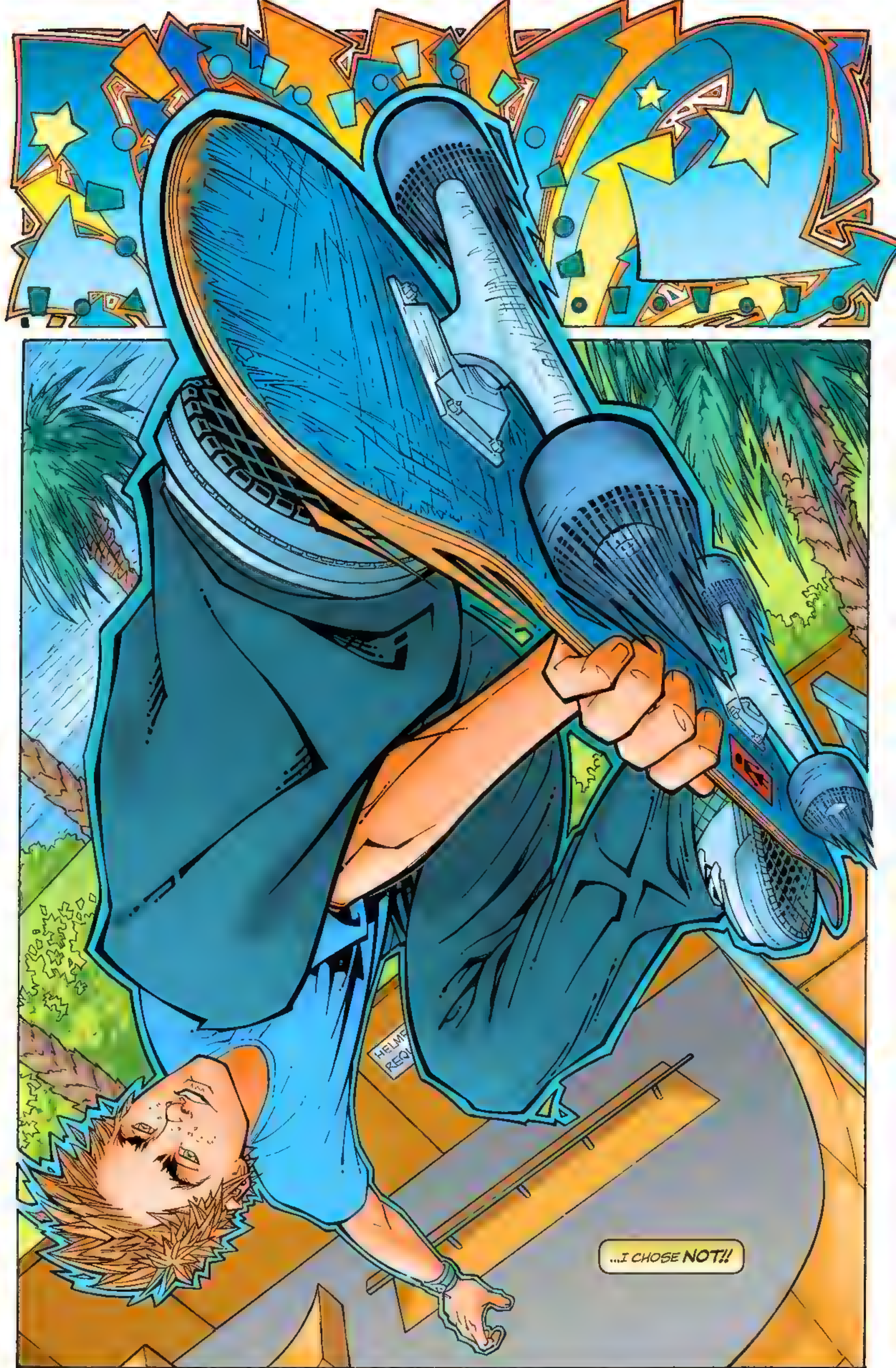
I'VE HEARD THIS CRAP MY ENTIRE LIFE, WITH TWO PSYCHOLOGIST PARENTS WHO TALK TO ME LIKE I'M A PATIENT, I'VE HEARD IT ALL. IT'S COOL THOUGH... THEY'RE OUT OF TOWN A LOT, MOSTLY DOING SEMINARS OR BENEFITS OR SOMETHING... SO IT GIVES ME PLENTY OF CHILL TIME.

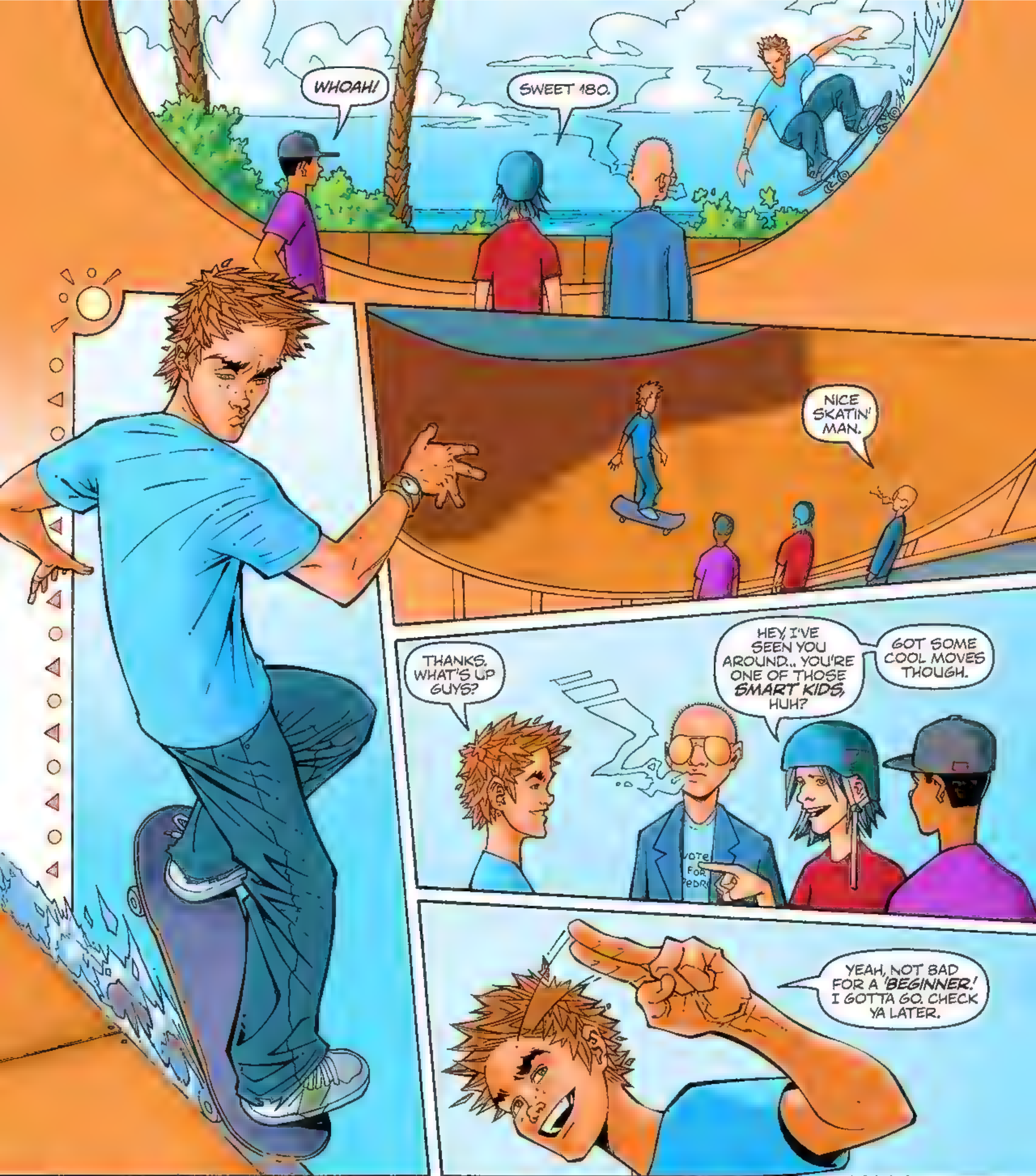
BUT RECENTLY, ME, MYSELF AND I HAS TAKEN ON A WHOLE NEW MEANING. I'M STARTING TO HEAR VOICES, OR THINK THAT THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE IN MY HEAD WITH ME, TALKING TO ME OR ARGUING...

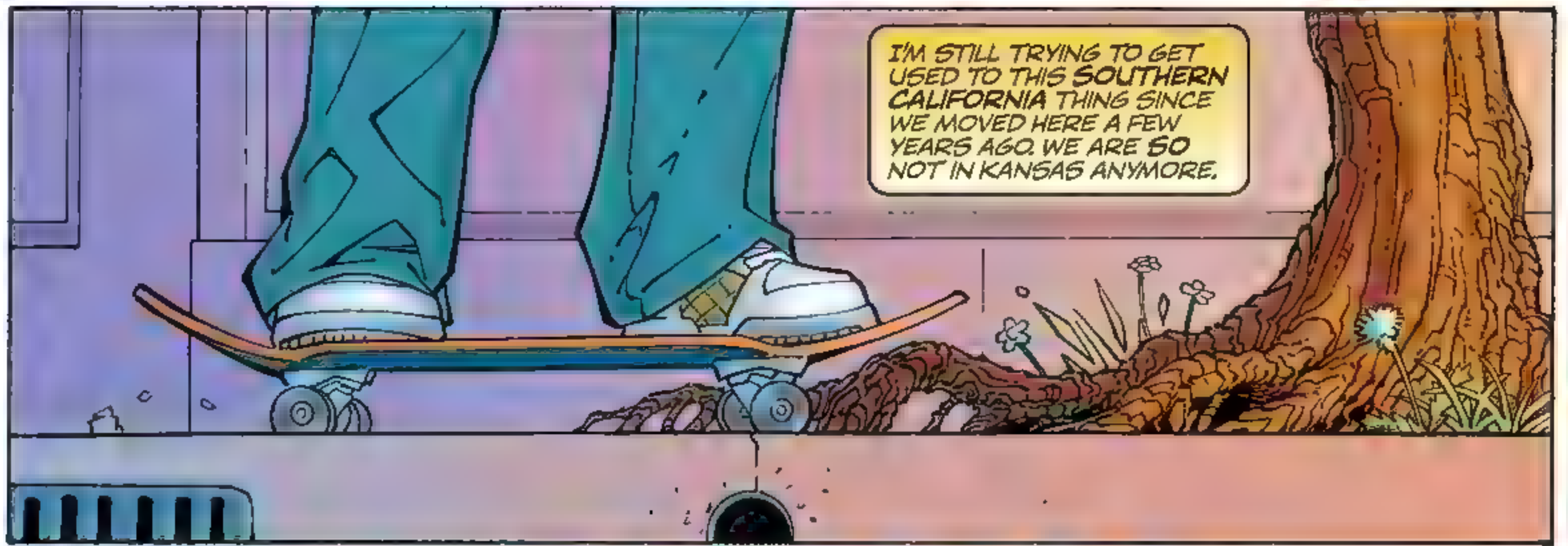
...I THINK I'M GOING CRAZY.

I WANT TO FEEL LIKE I'M IN CONTROL OF MY OWN THOUGHTS AND CHOICES, BUT LATELY, I'M NOT SO SURE.

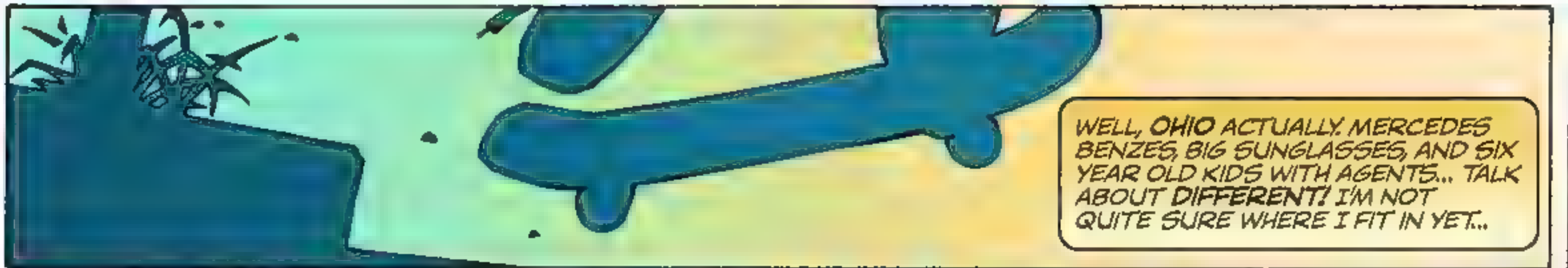
IN FACT, THIS MORNING I ARGUED WITH MYSELF DECIDING ON WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE THE BUS TO SCHOOL...



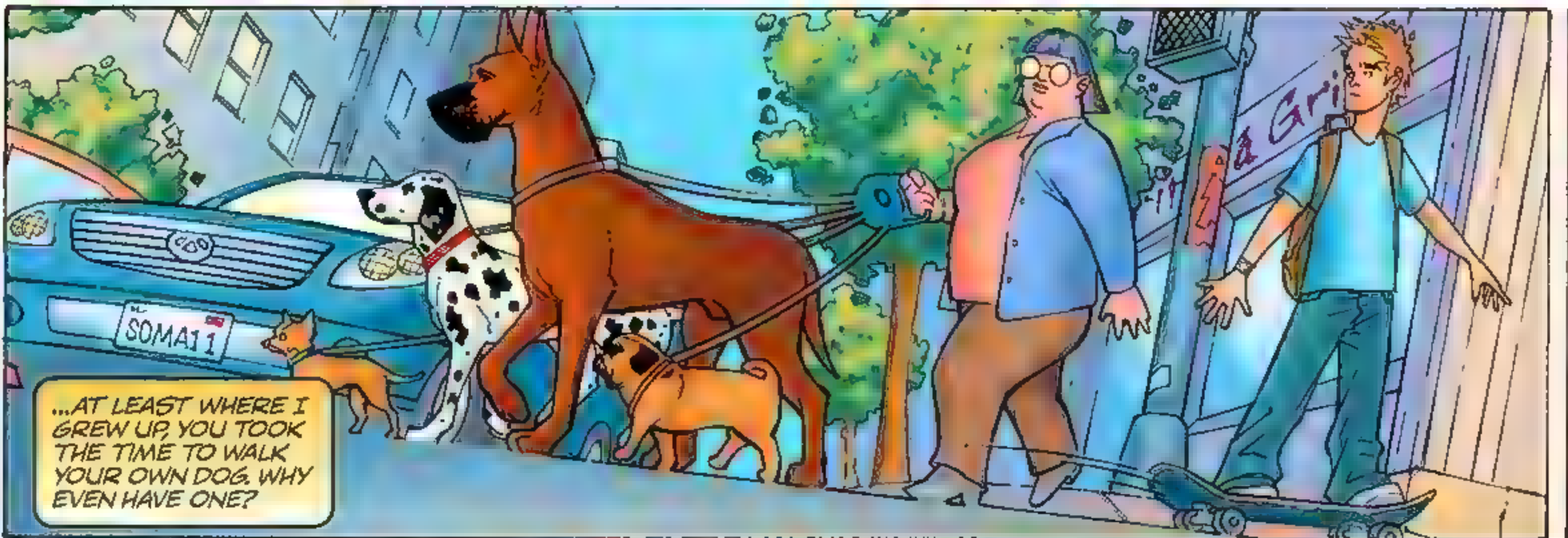




I'M STILL TRYING TO GET USED TO THIS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THING SINCE WE MOVED HERE A FEW YEARS AGO. WE ARE SO NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE.



WELL, OHIO ACTUALLY. MERCEDES BENZES, BIG SUNGLASSES, AND SIX YEAR OLD KIDS WITH AGENTS... TALK ABOUT DIFFERENT! I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHERE I FIT IN YET...



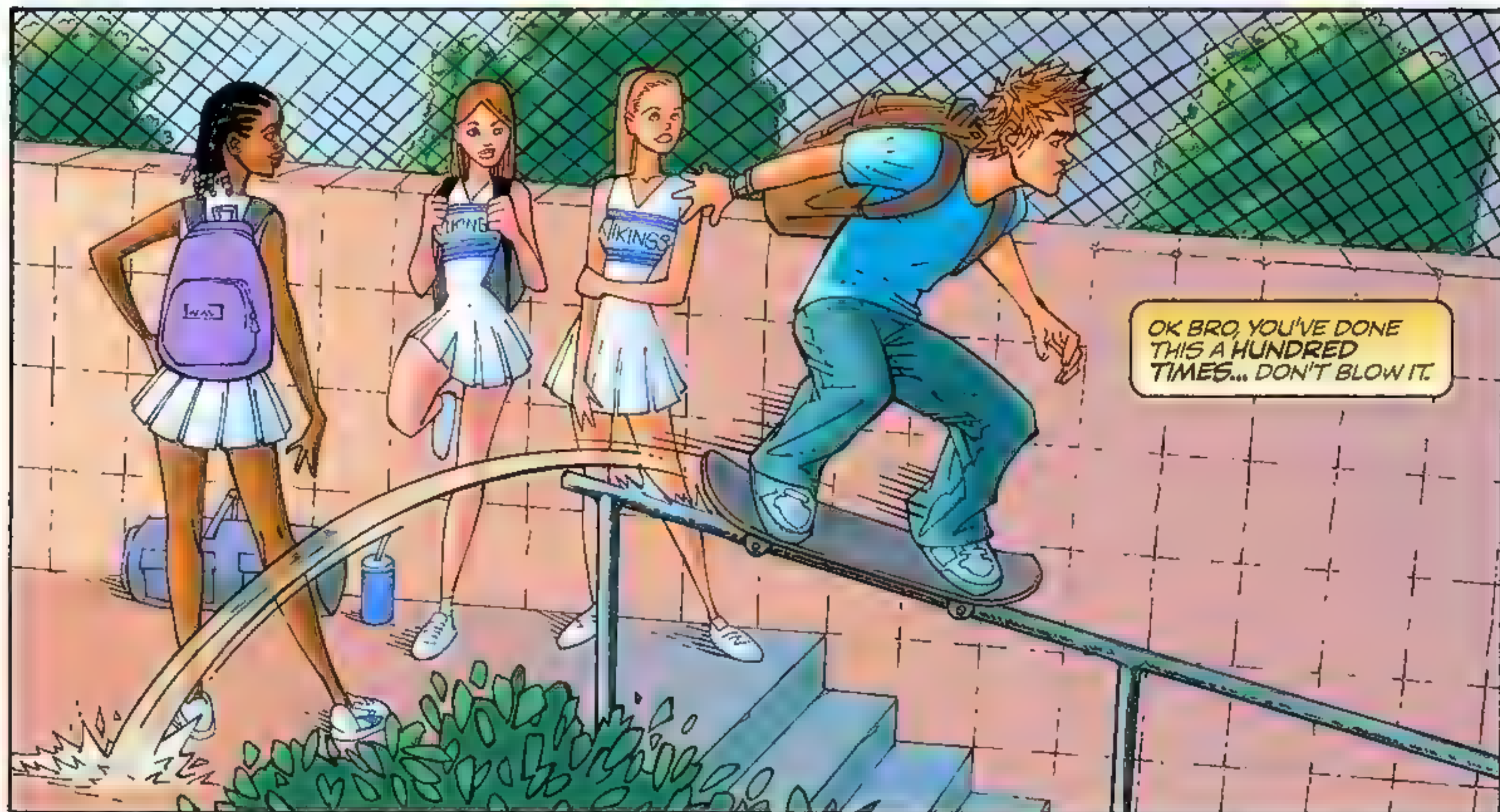
...AT LEAST WHERE I GREW UP, YOU TOOK THE TIME TO WALK YOUR OWN DOG. WHY EVEN HAVE ONE?



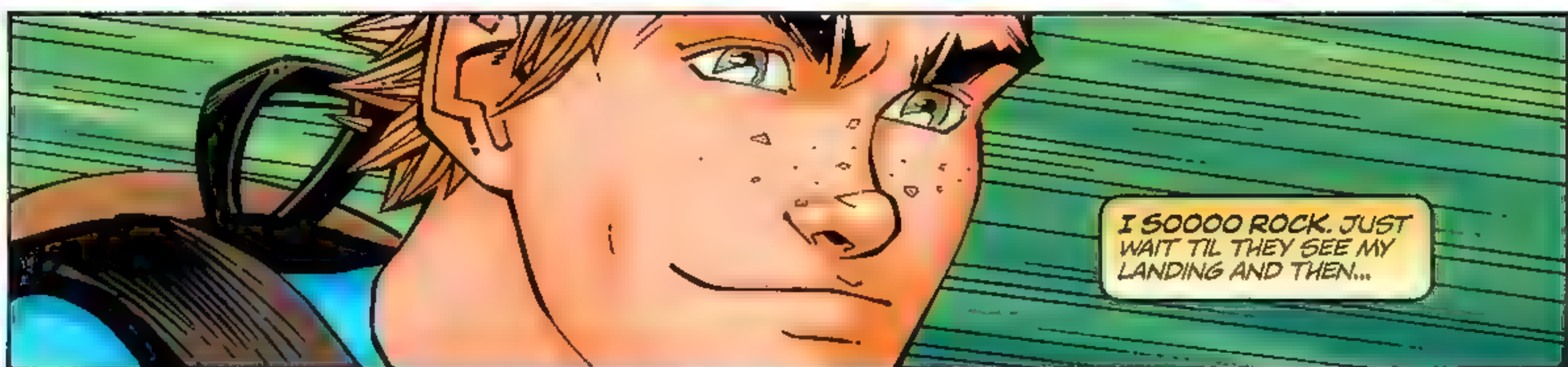
THERE IS ONE THING SO CAL HAS GOING FOR IT THOUGH...



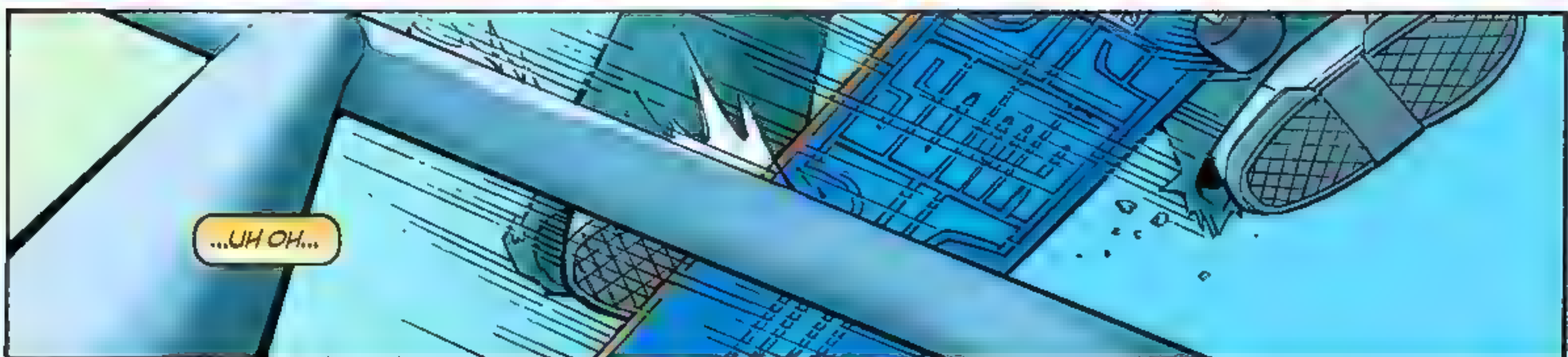
NICE.



OK BRO, YOU'VE DONE THIS A HUNDRED TIMES... DON'T BLOW IT.



I SOOOO ROCK. JUST WAIT TIL THEY SEE MY LANDING AND THEN...

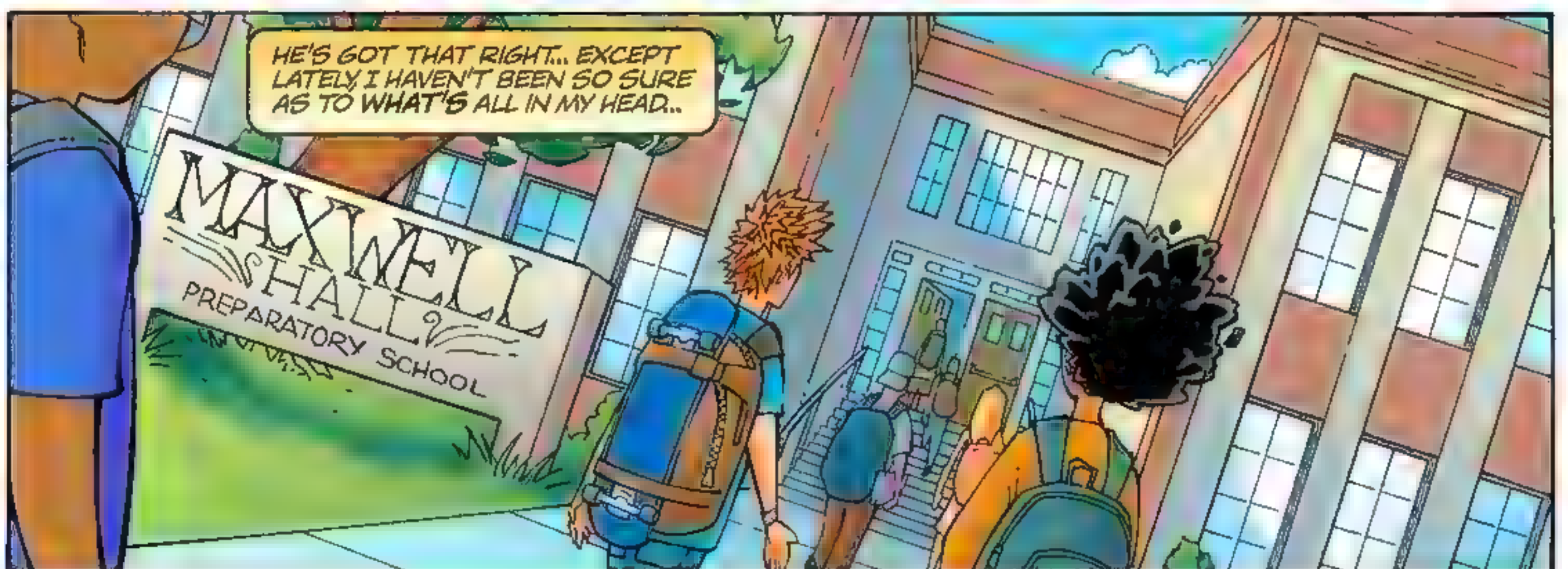
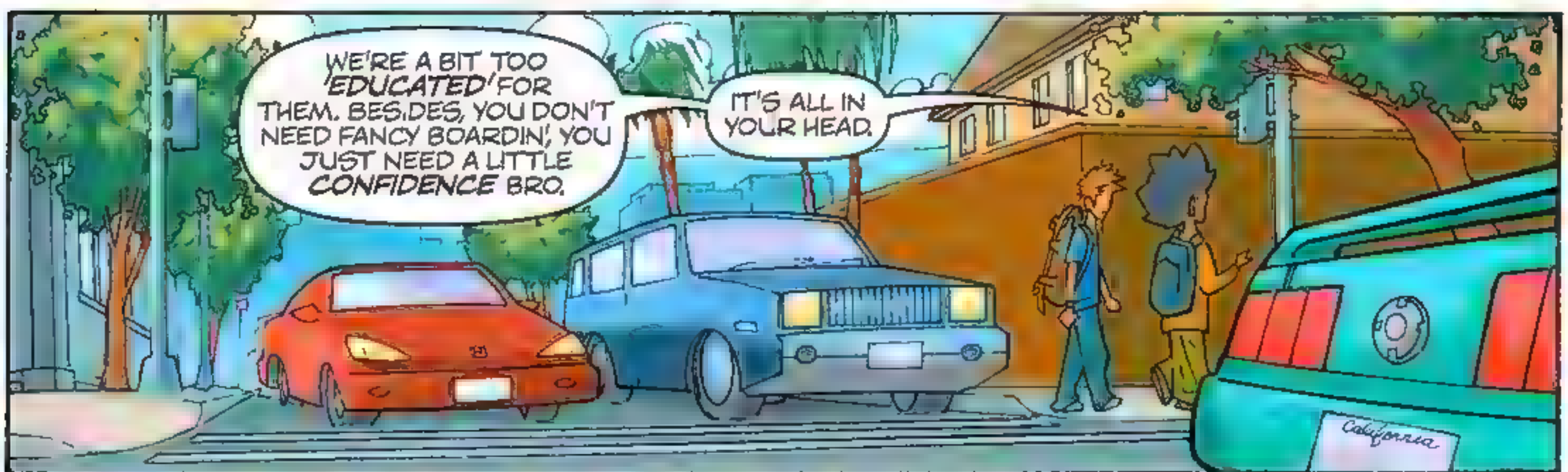


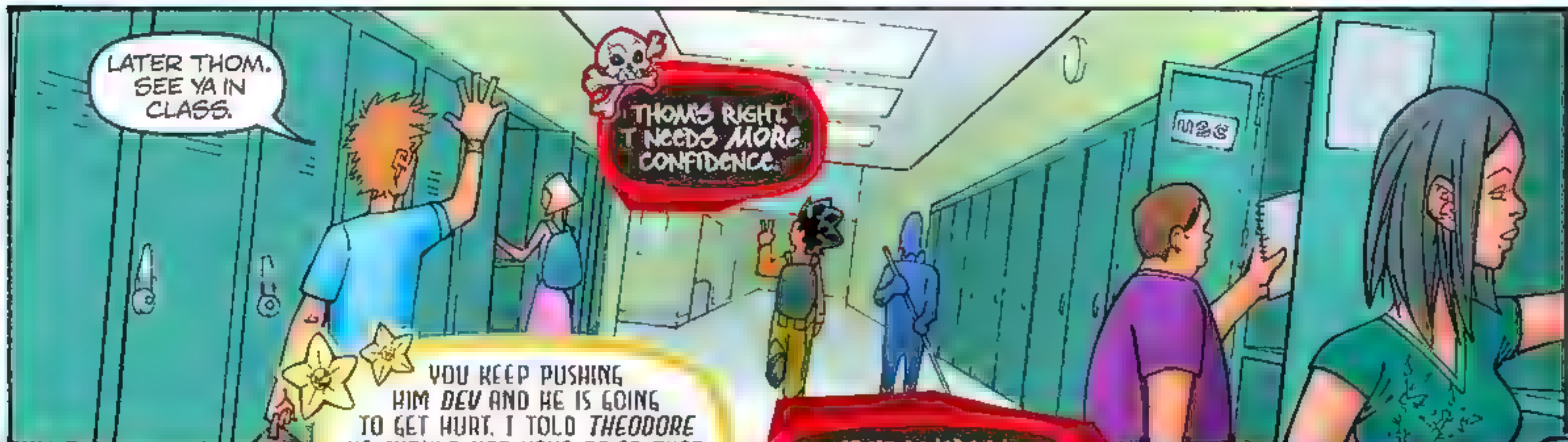
...UH OH...



THAT... UGH... SO... OW, OW, OW... SUCKED

UGGNNHH.



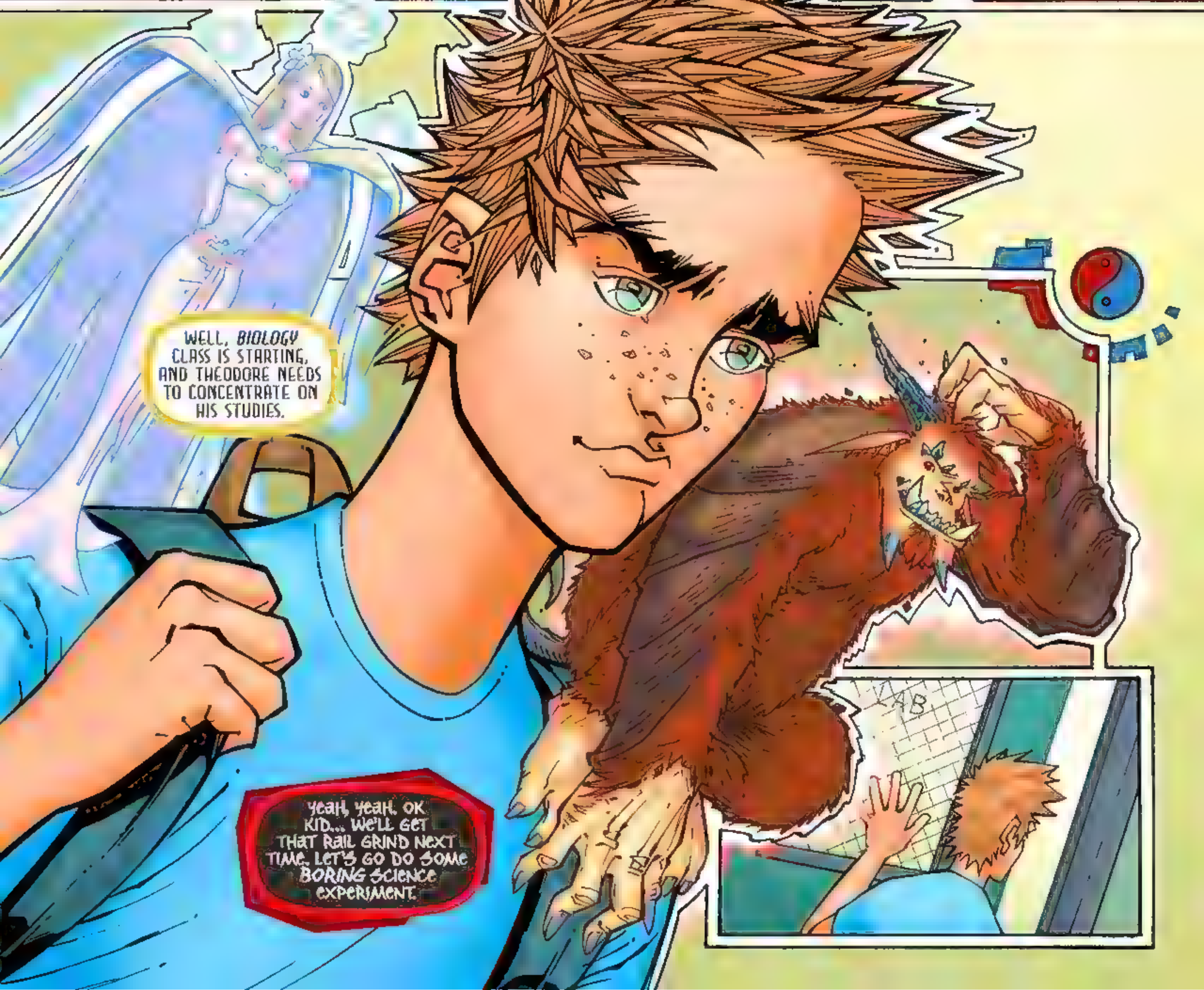
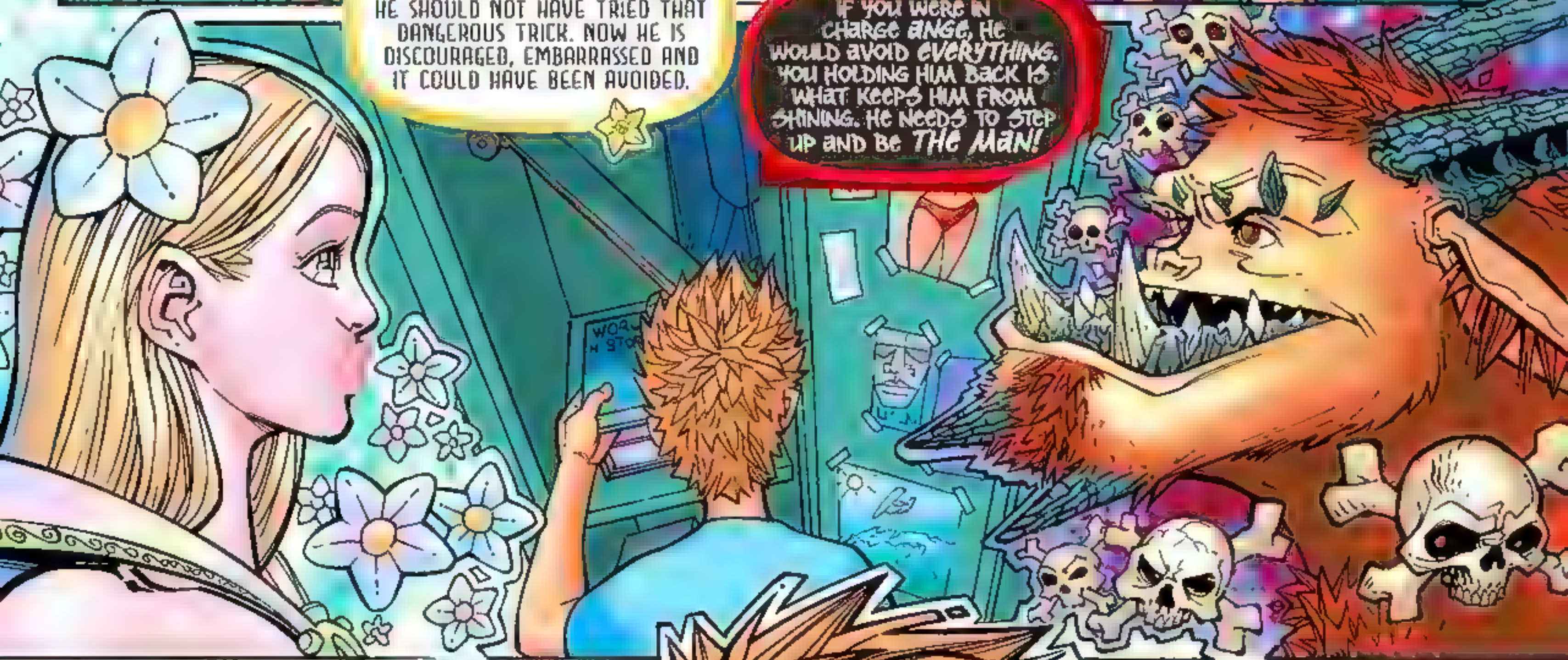


LATER THOM.
SEE YA IN
CLASS.

THOM'S RIGHT.
T NEEDS MORE
CONFIDENCE.

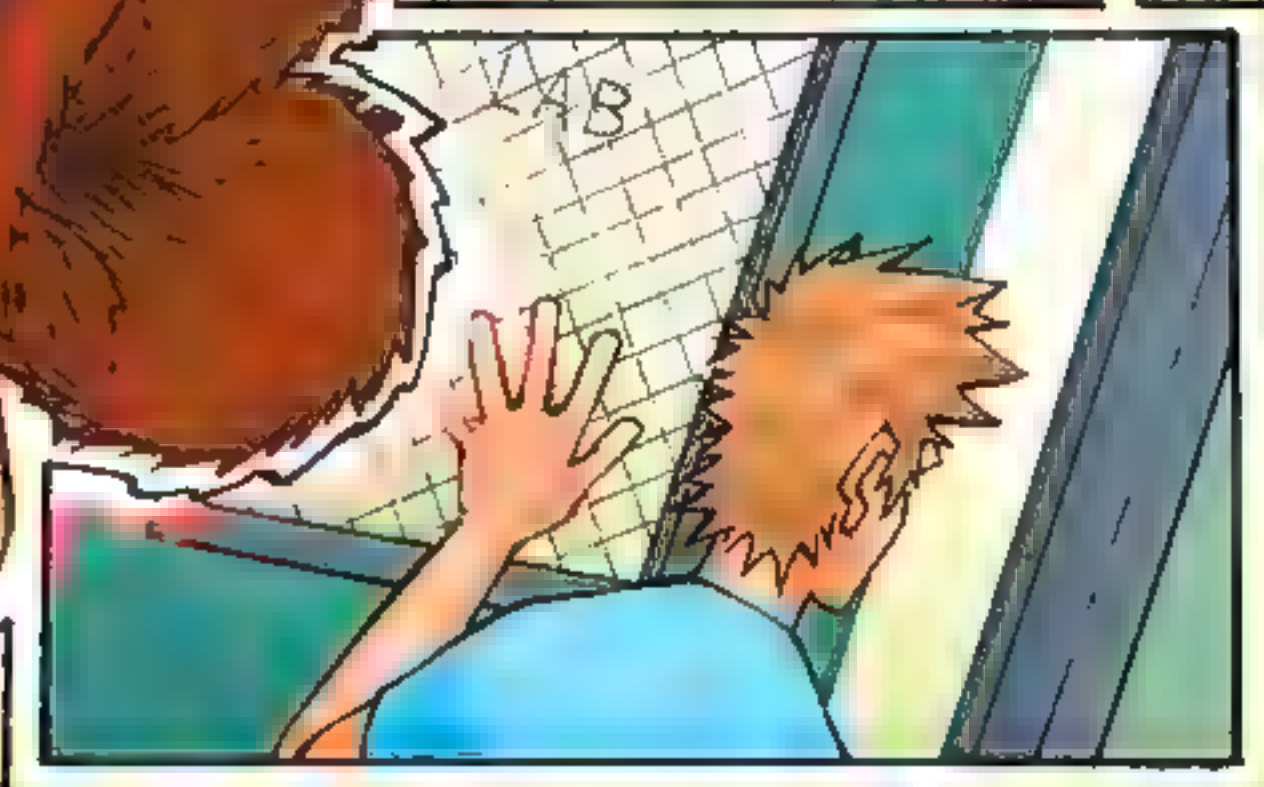
YOU KEEP PUSHING
HIM DEV AND HE IS GOING
TO GET HURT. I TOLD THEODORE
HE SHOULD NOT HAVE TRIED THAT
DANGEROUS TRICK. NOW HE IS
DISCOURAGED, EMBARRASSED AND
IT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

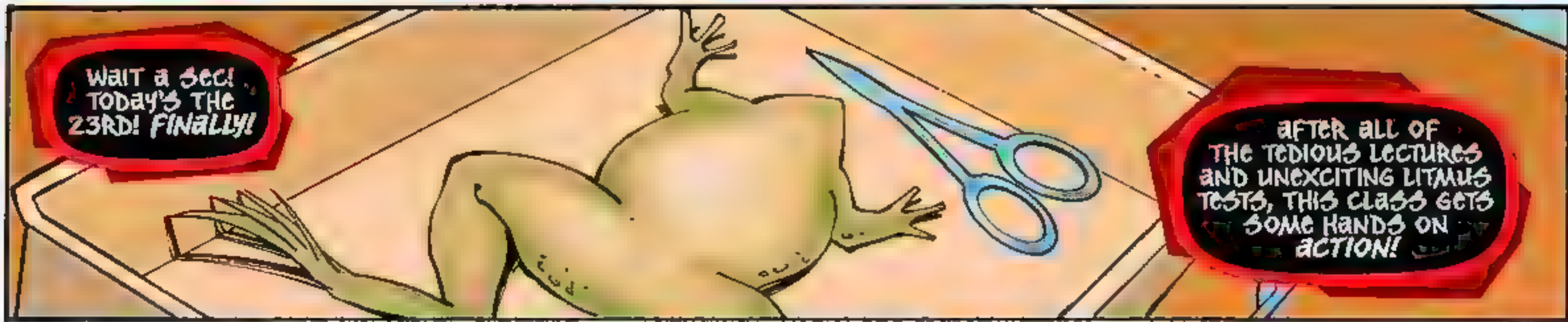
IF YOU WERE IN
CHARGE ANGE, HE
WOULD AVOID EVERYTHING.
YOU HOLDING HIM BACK IS
WHAT KEEPS HIM FROM
SHINING. HE NEEDS TO STEP
UP AND BE THE MAN!



WELL, BIOLOGY
CLASS IS STARTING,
AND THEODORE NEEDS
TO CONCENTRATE ON
HIS STUDIES.

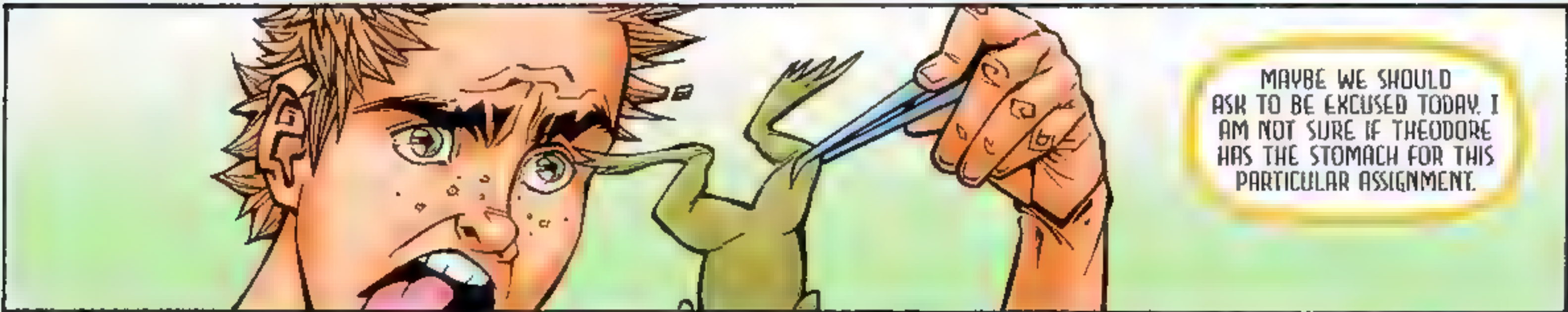
YEAH, YEAH. OK
KID... WE'LL GET
THAT RAIL GRIND NEXT
TIME. LET'S GO DO SOME
BORING SCIENCE
EXPERIMENT.





Wait a sec!
Today's the
23rd! Finally!

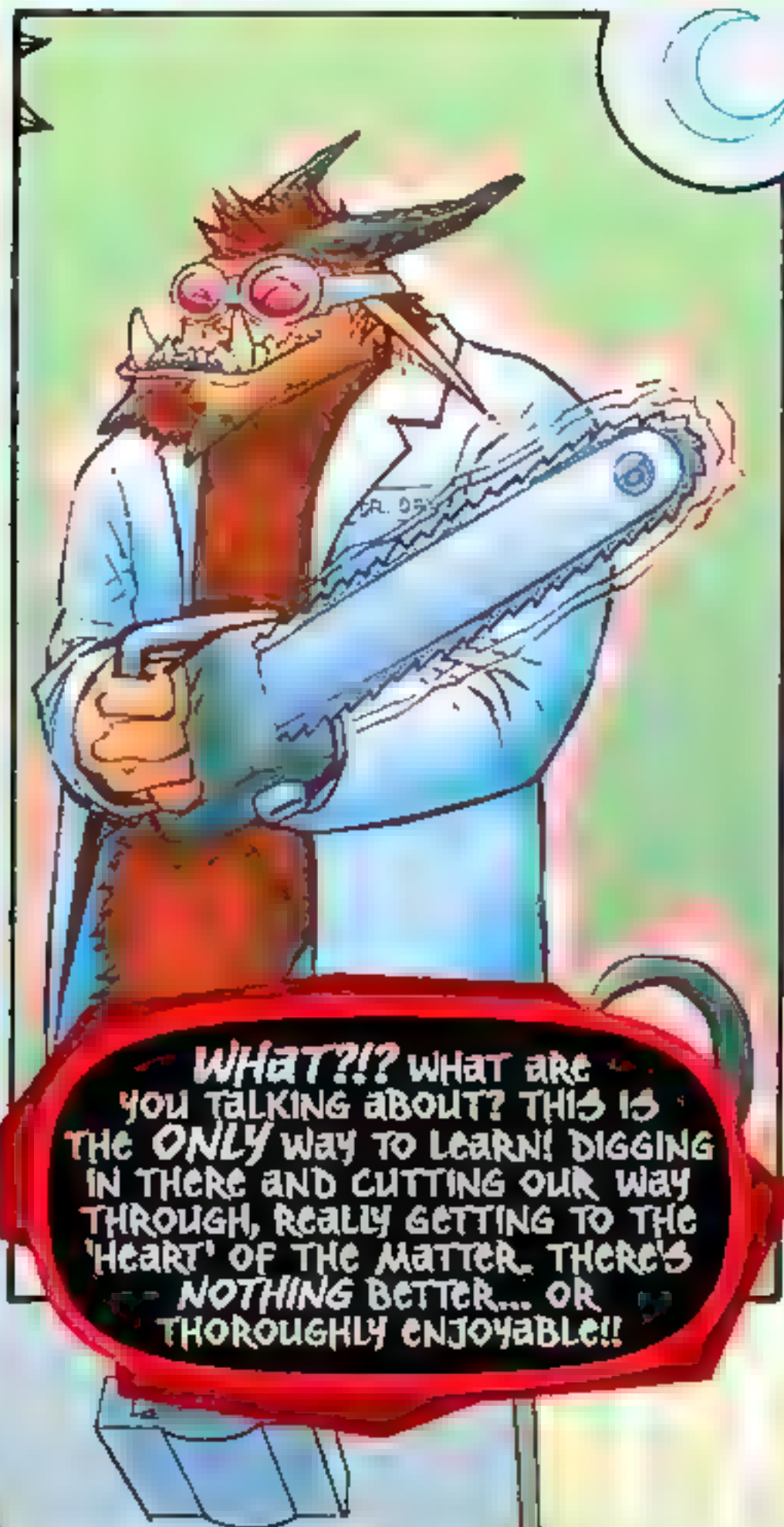
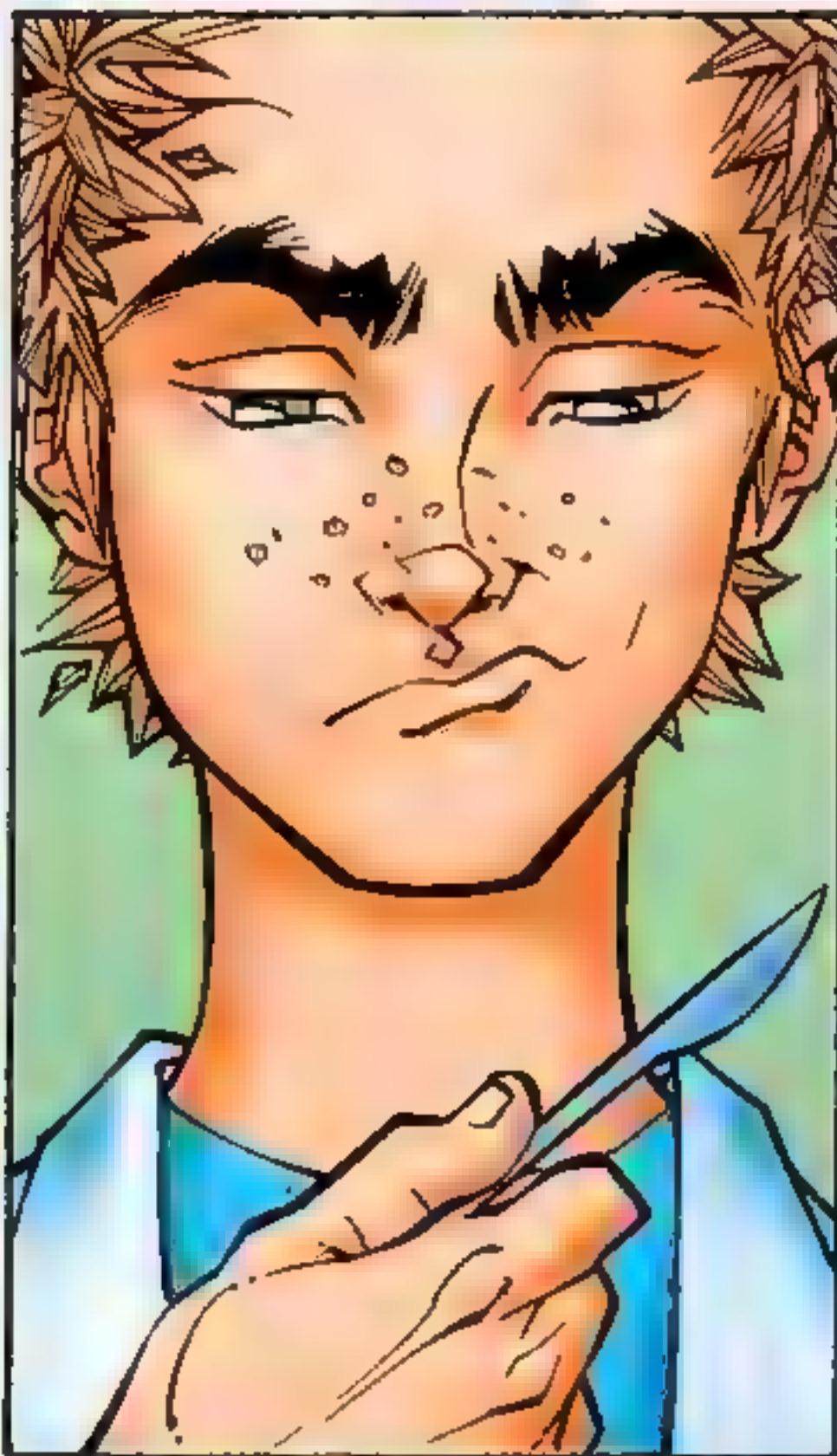
AFTER ALL OF
THE TEDIOUS LECTURES
AND UNEXCITING LITMUS
TESTS, THIS CLASS GETS
SOME HANDS ON
ACTION!



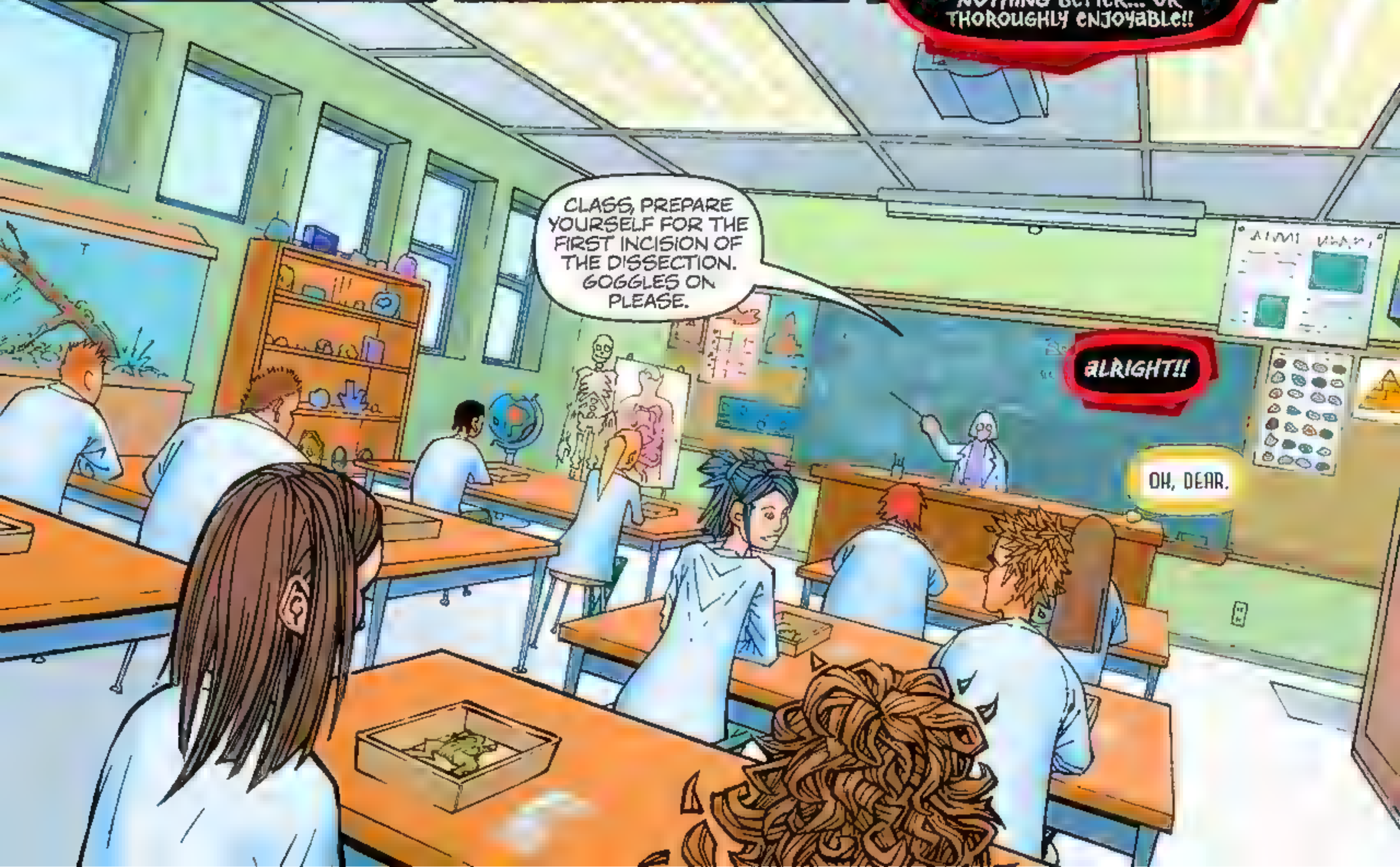
MAYBE WE SHOULD
ASK TO BE EXCUSED TODAY. I
AM NOT SURE IF THEODORE
HAS THE STOMACH FOR THIS
PARTICULAR ASSIGNMENT.



GOODNESS, THESE POOR
CREATURES SMELL DREADFUL.
I WISH THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY
FOR THEODORE TO LEARN ABOUT A
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM THAN CUTTING
UP THESE DEFENSELESS FROGS.



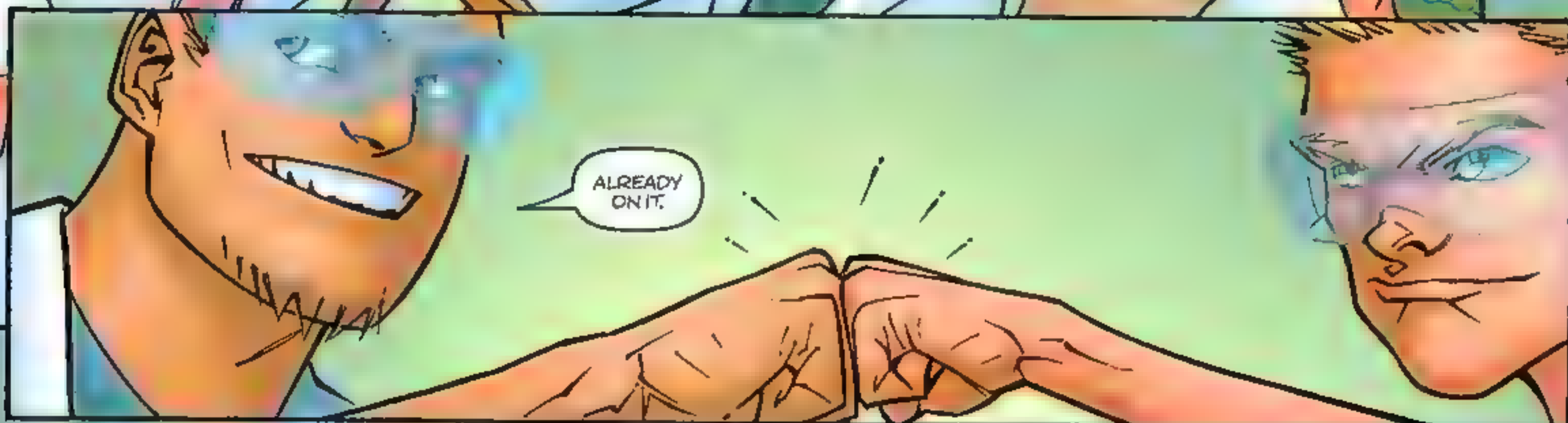
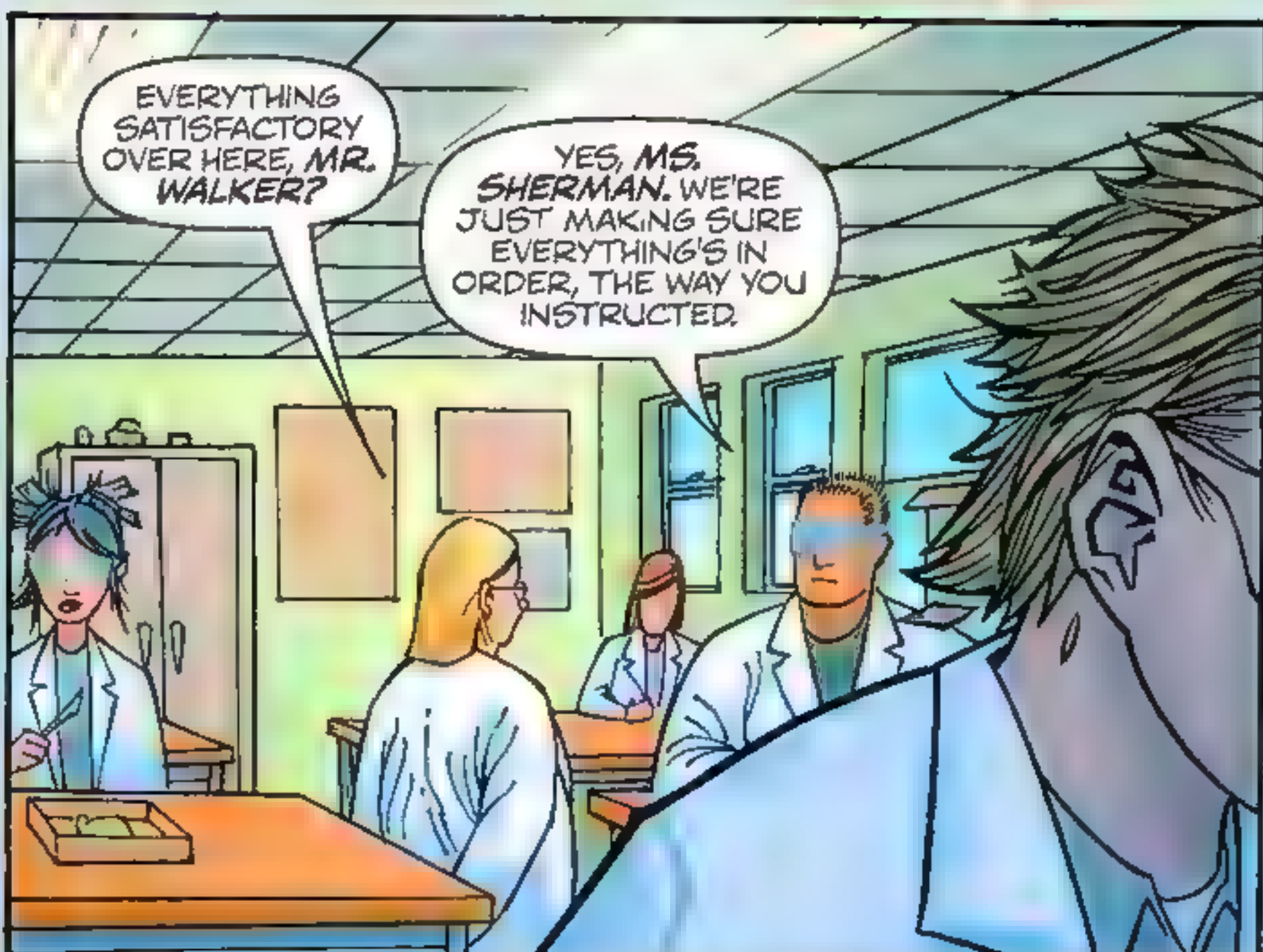
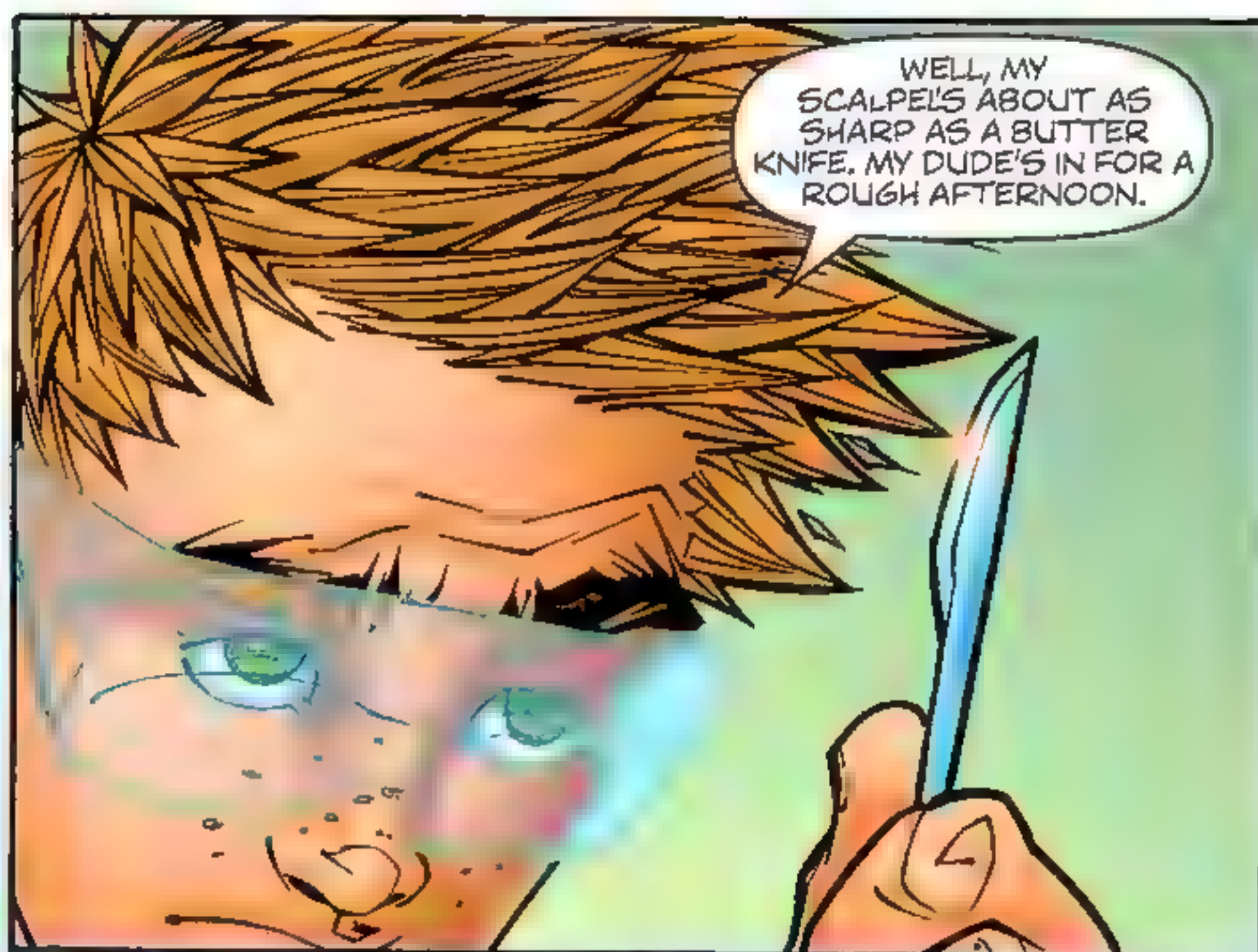
WHAT?!? WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS
THE **ONLY** WAY TO LEARN! DIGGING
IN THERE AND CUTTING OUR WAY
THROUGH, REALLY GETTING TO THE
'HEART' OF THE MATTER. THERE'S
NOTHING BETTER... OR
THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE!!

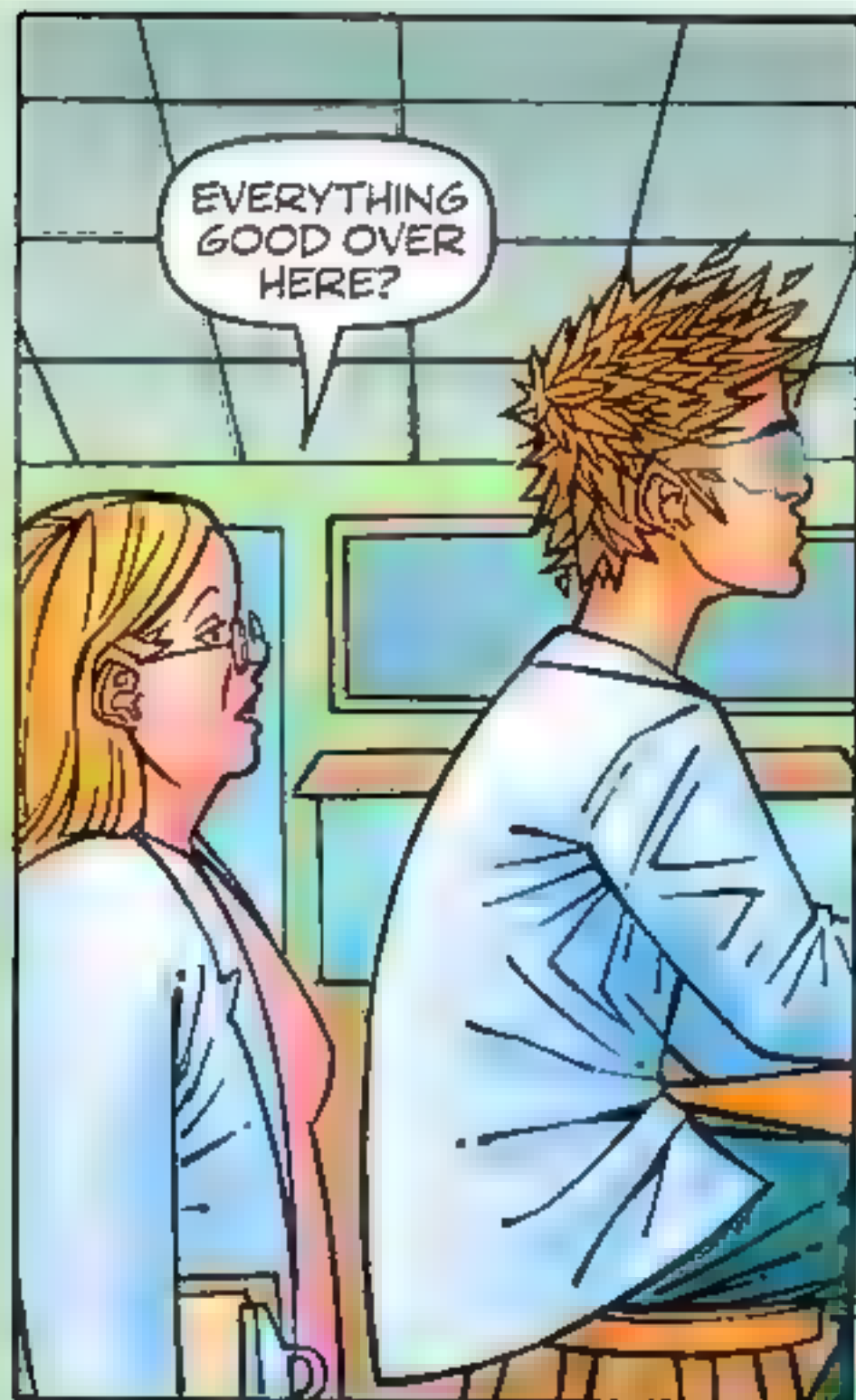


CLASS, PREPARE
YOURSELF FOR THE
FIRST INCISION OF
THE DISSECTION.
GOGGLES ON
PLEASE.

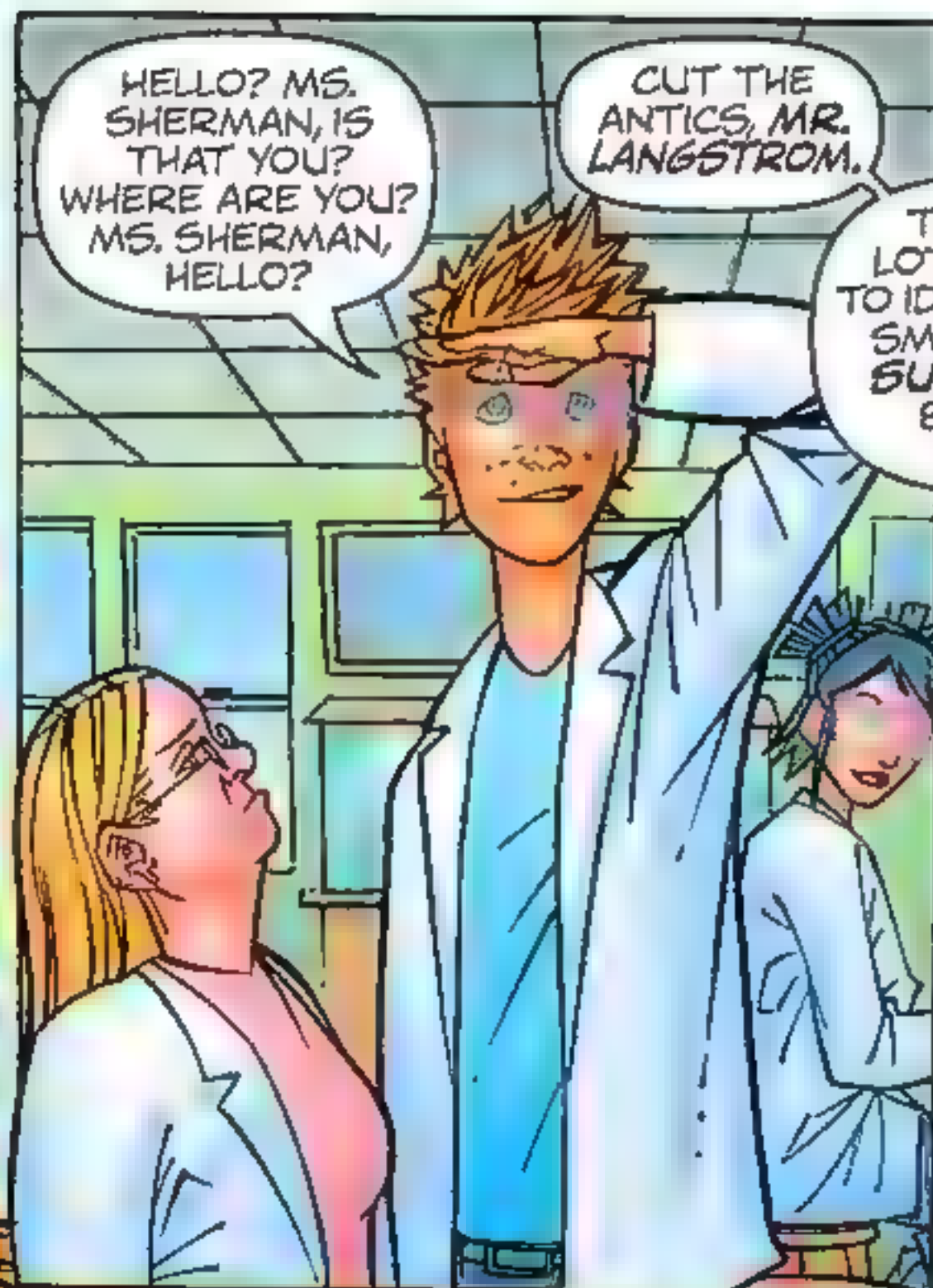
ALRIGHT!!

OH, DEAR.





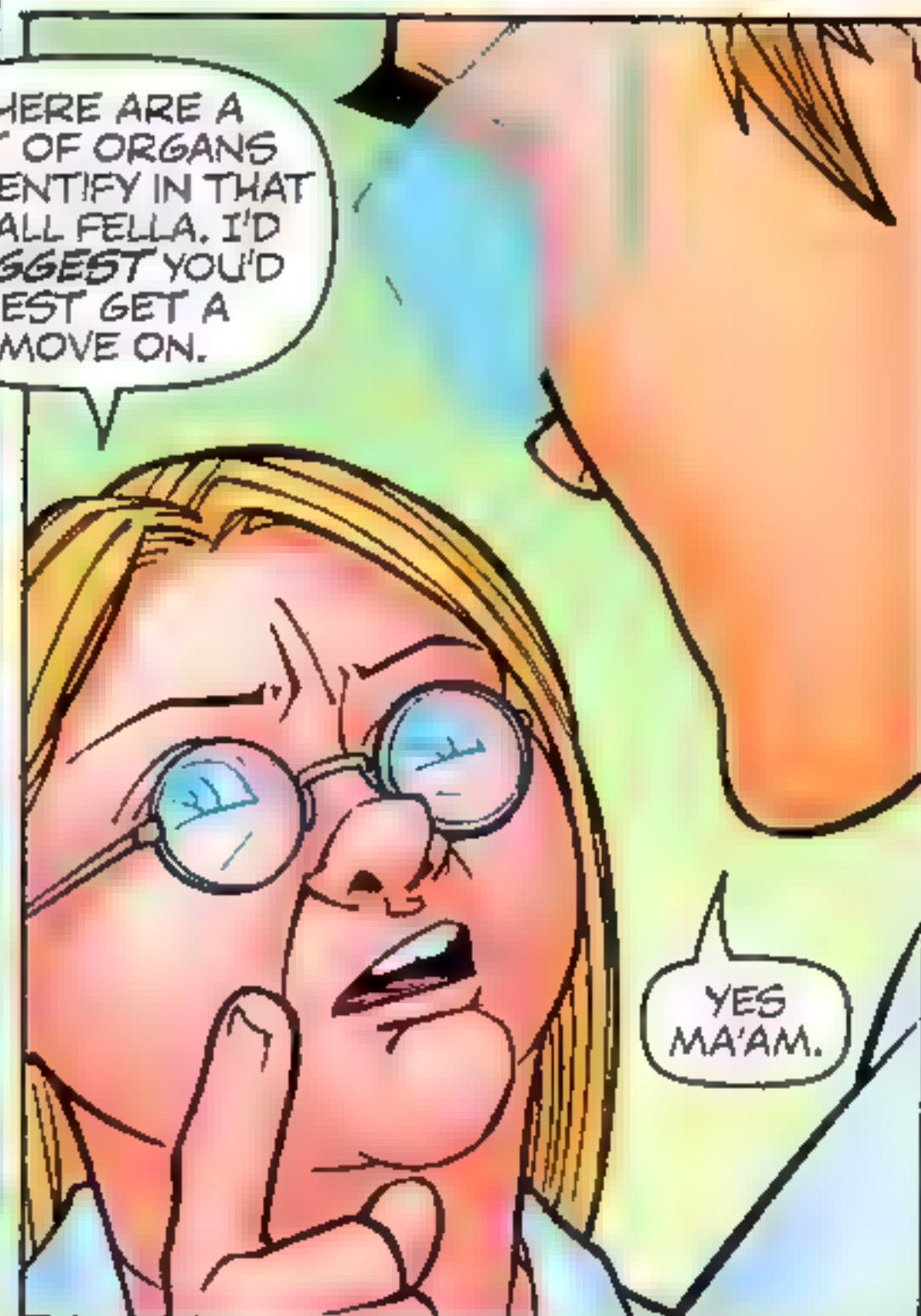
EVERYTHING GOOD OVER HERE?



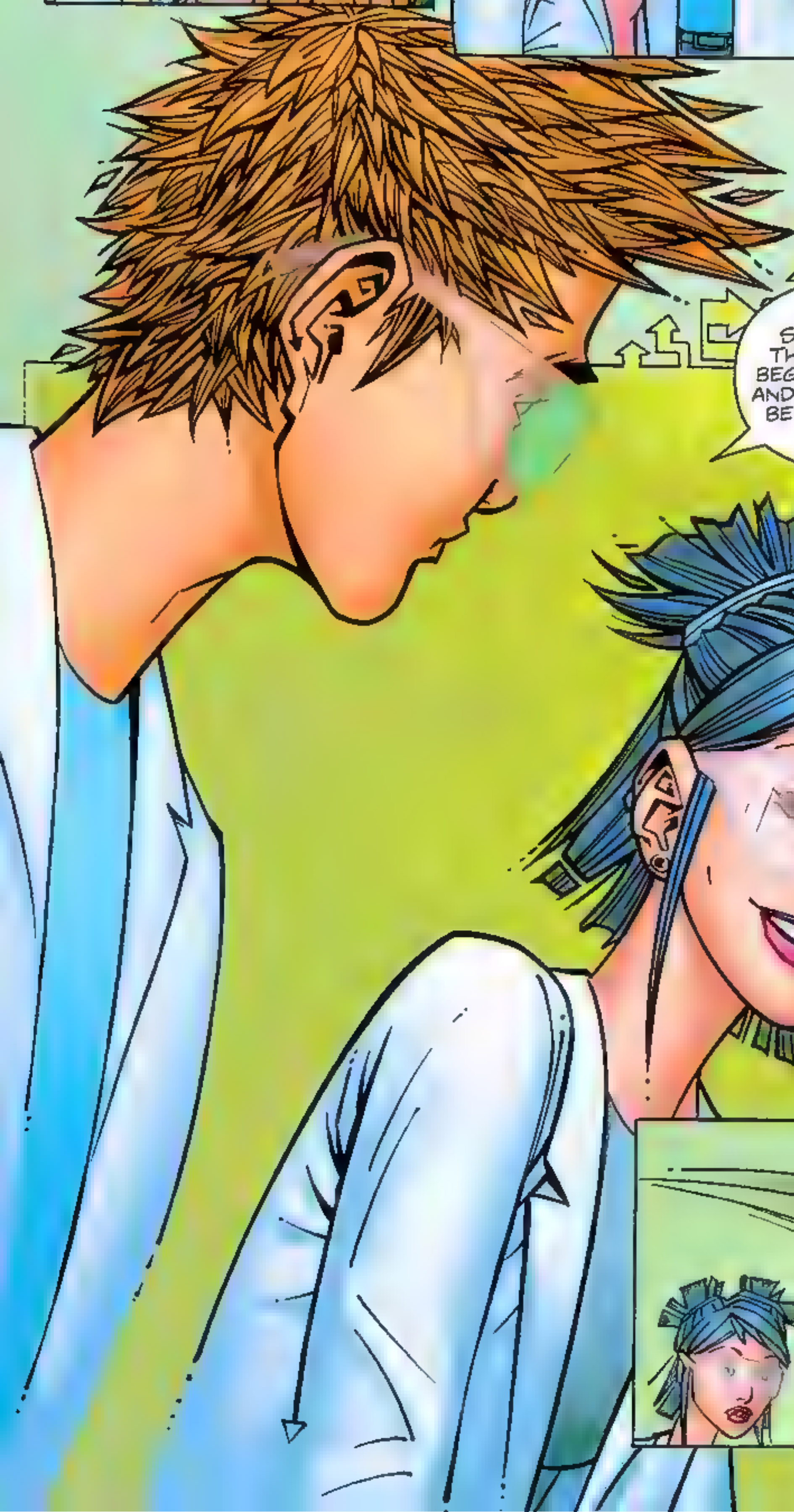
HELLO? MS. SHERMAN, IS THAT YOU? WHERE ARE YOU? MS. SHERMAN, HELLO?

CUT THE ANTICS, MR. LANGSTROM.

THERE ARE A LOT OF ORGANS TO IDENTIFY IN THAT SMALL FELLA. I'D SUGGEST YOU'D BEST GET A MOVE ON.



YES MA'AM.



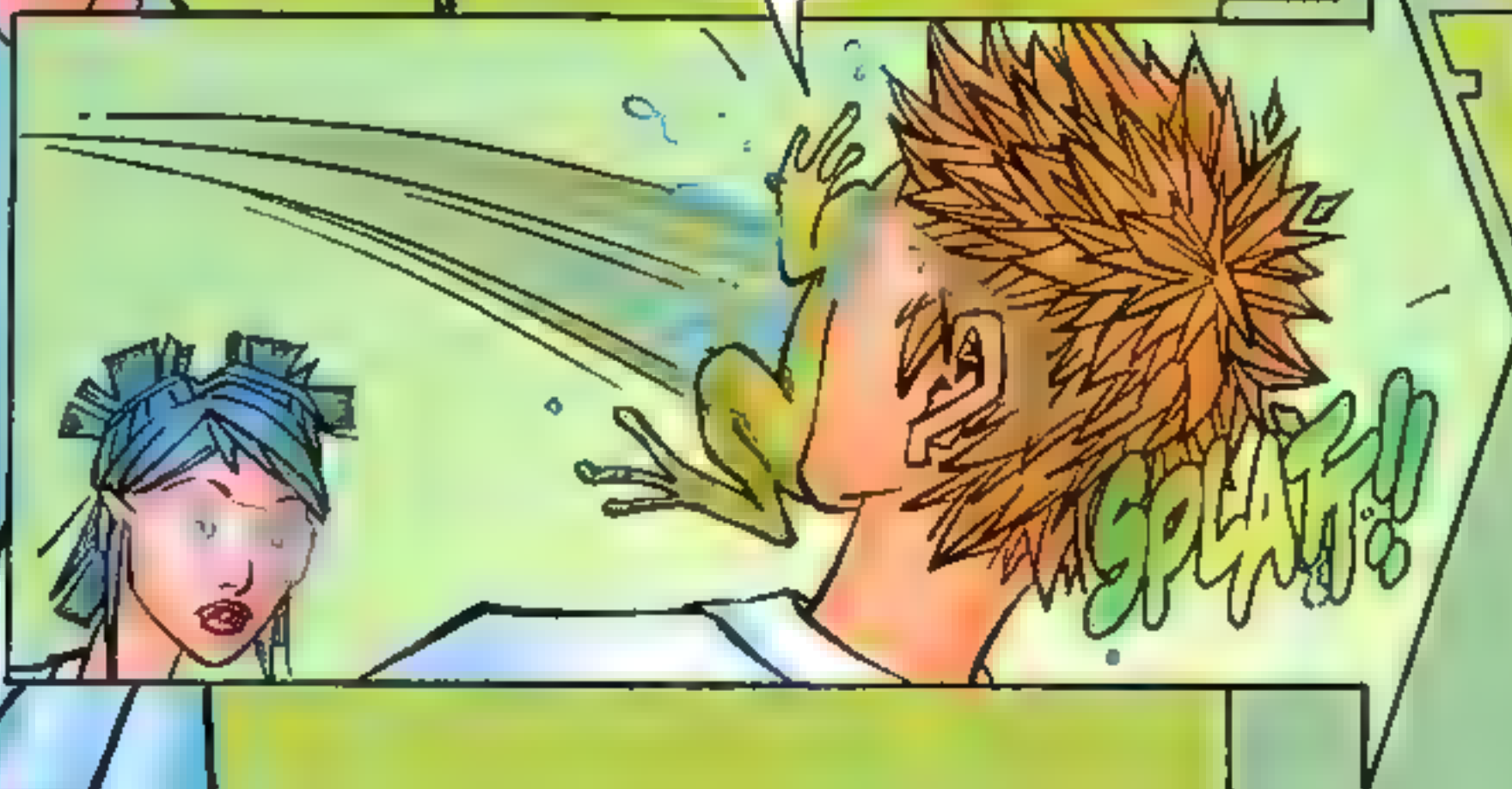
SMOOTH THEO, I'VE SEEN HER SEND PEOPLE TO DETENTION FOR LESS THAN THAT. YOU'RE LUCKY THAT SHE LIKES YOU.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S LUCK, BUT WHATEVER IT IS, I SURE COULD USE SOME WITH **THIS** THING. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. PART OF ME WISHES HE'D HOP UP AND JUST START JUMPING AWAY. THAT'D BE A GOOD ONE, MY HOMEWORK JUST LEAPT OUT THE WINDOW MS. SHERMAN, SORRY.

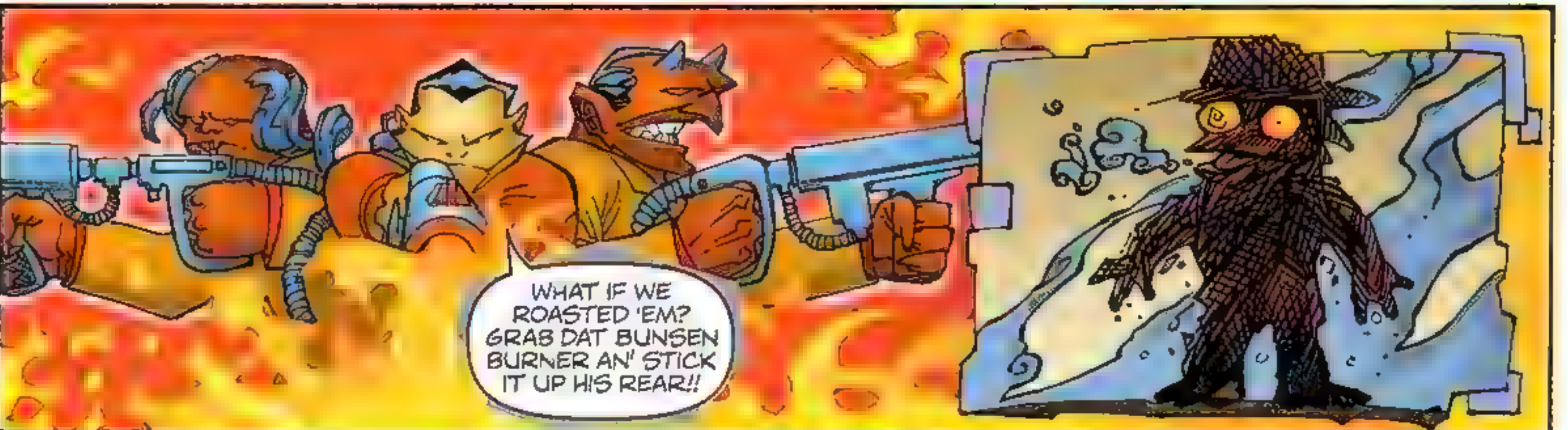
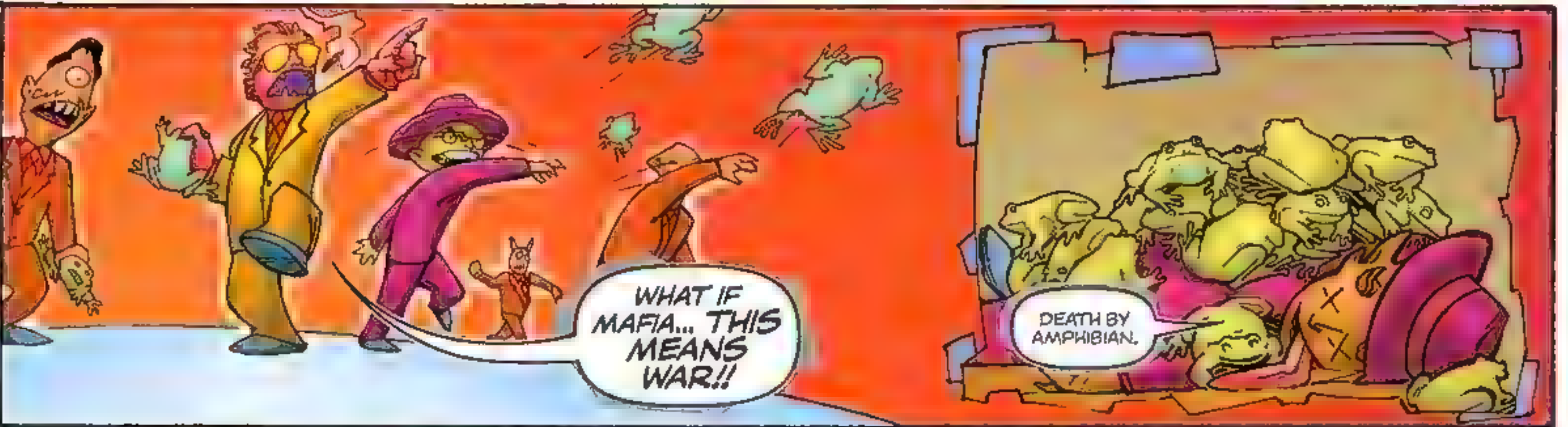
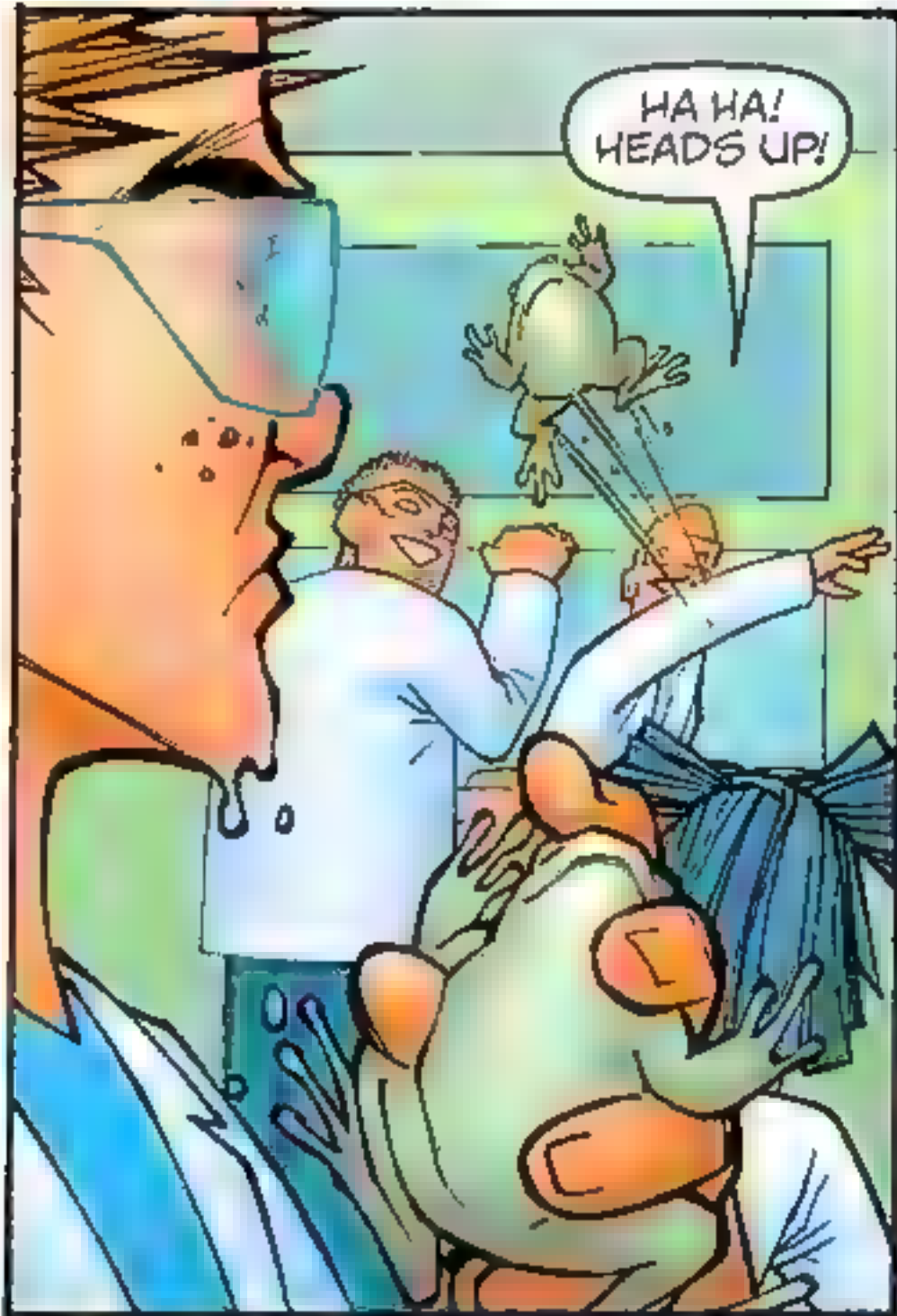


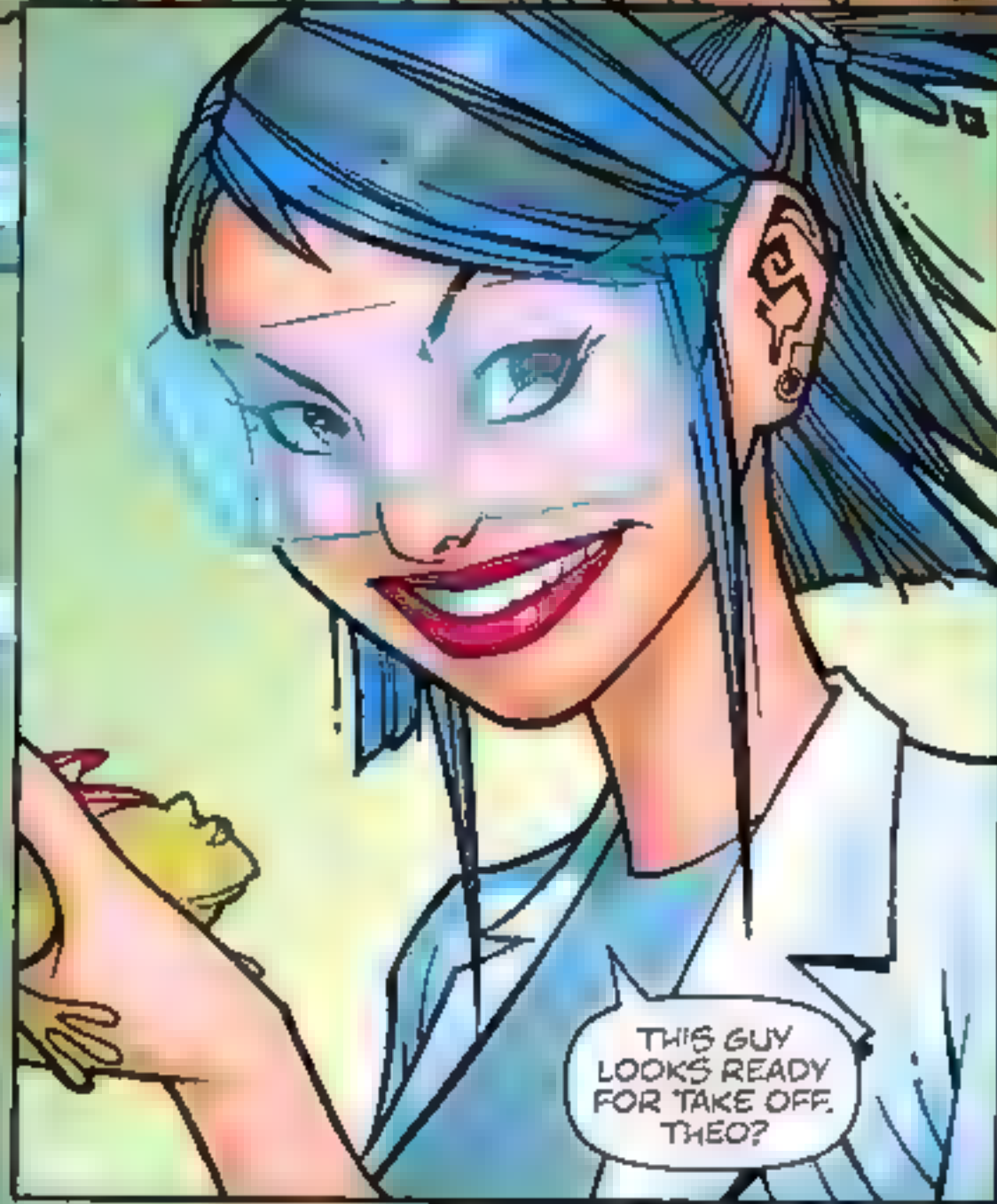
I DOUBT HE'D MAKE IT OUT THE WINDOW WITHOUT A LITTLE HELP AS WELL, MAY I SUGGEST YOU START DUCKING... YOU HAVE **INCOMING**.

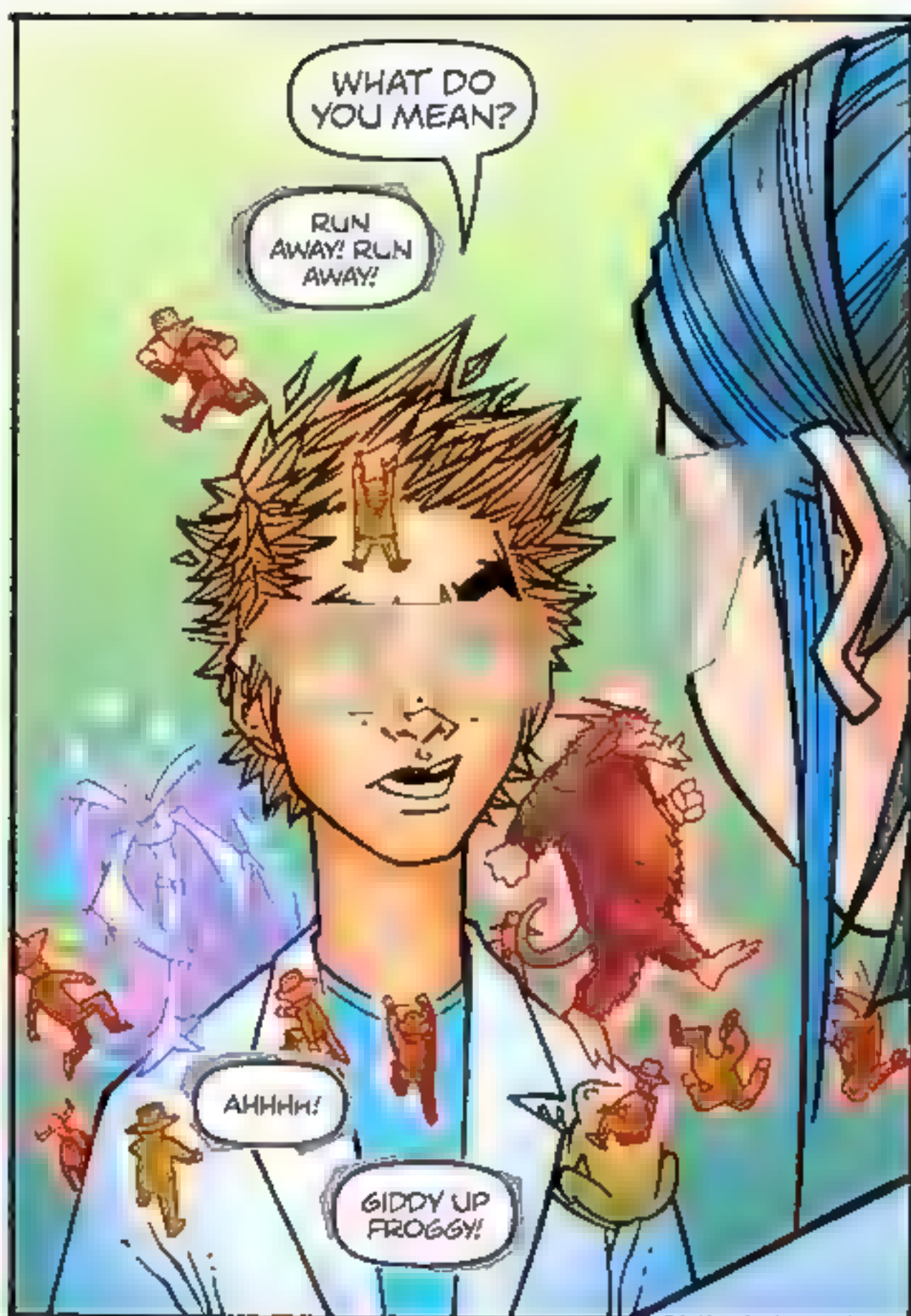
WHAT?



SPLAT!







WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

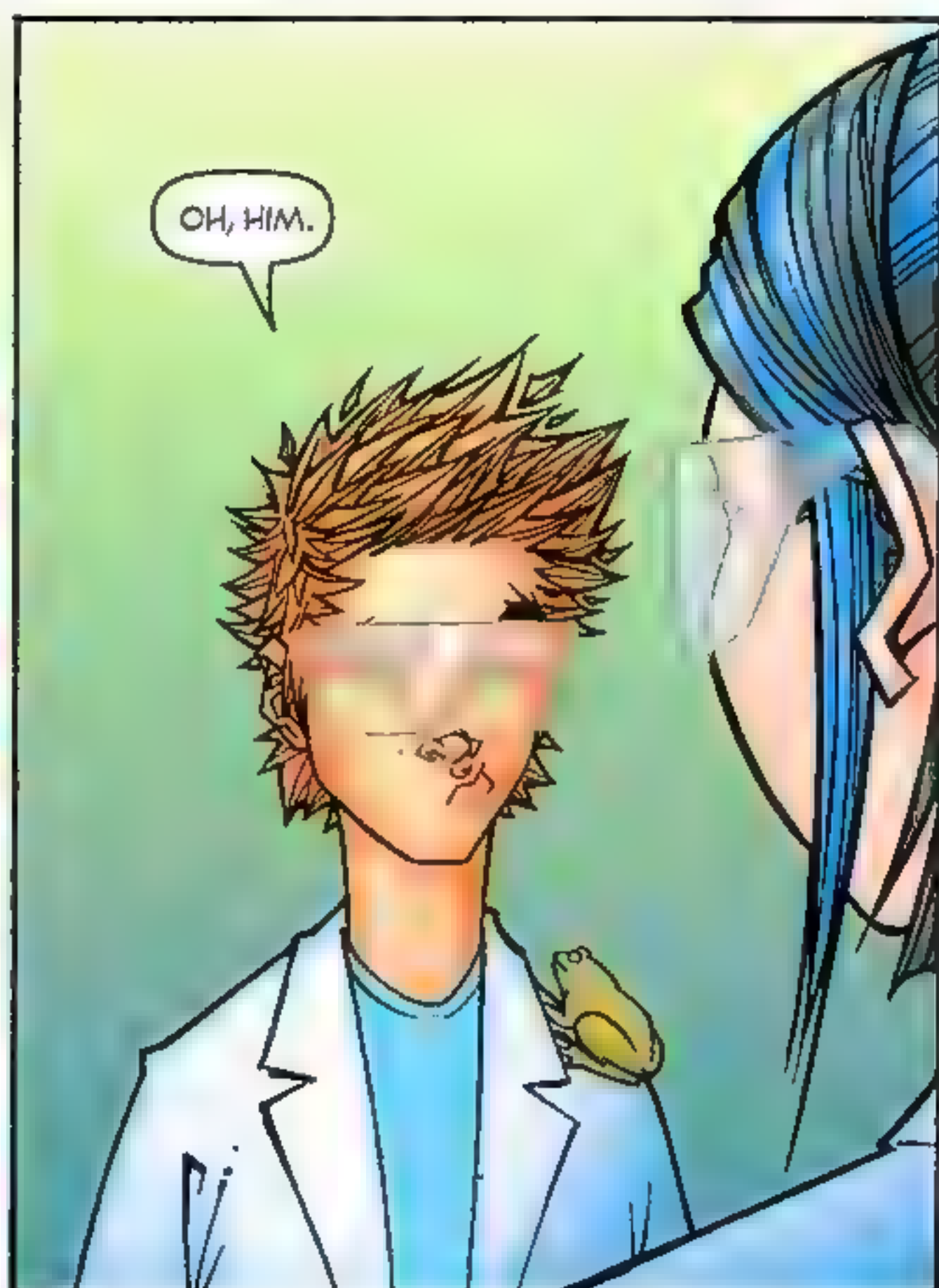
RUN AWAY! RUN AWAY!

AHHHH!

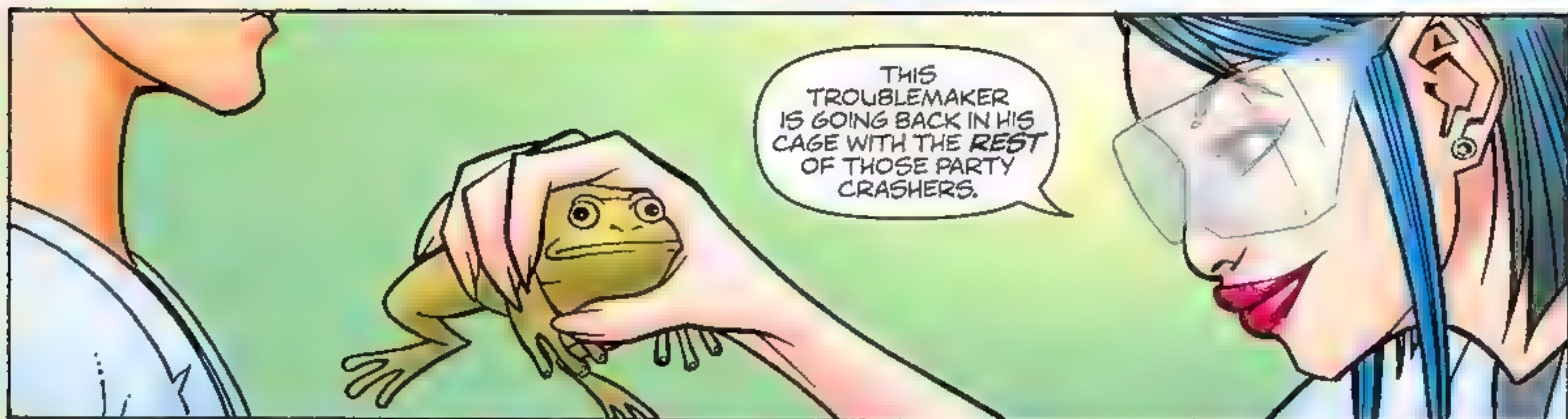
GIDDY UP FROGGY!



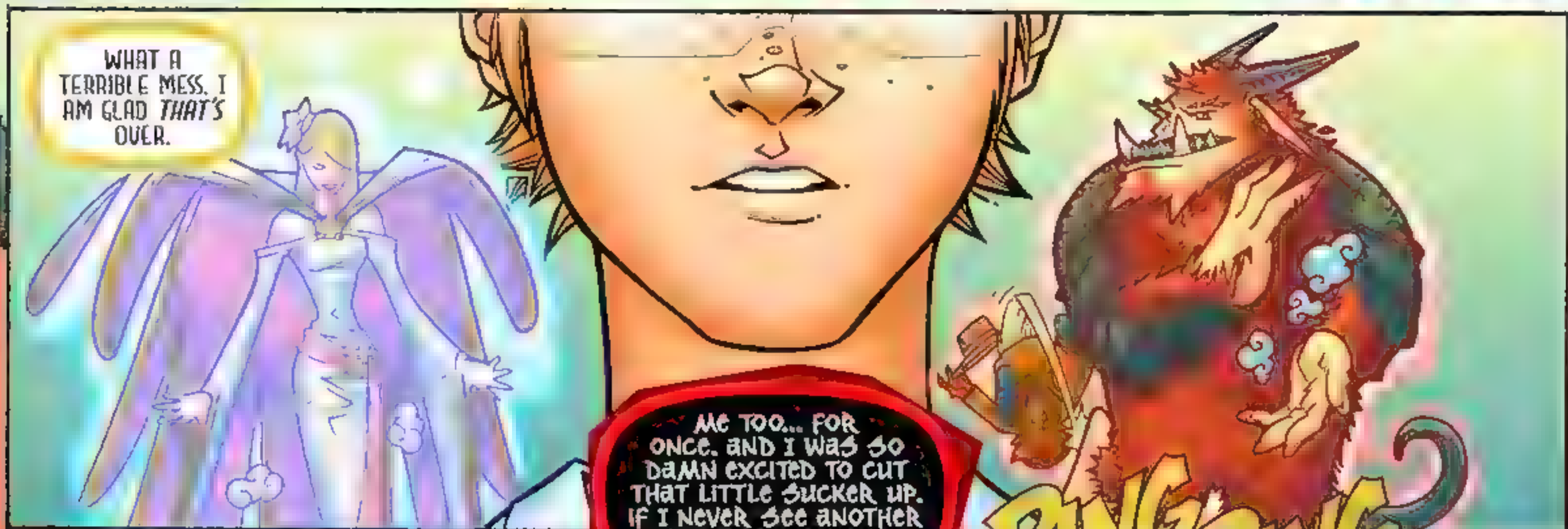
AH, DON'T WORRY. I'LL GET IT.



OH, HIM.



THIS TROUBLEMAKER IS GOING BACK IN HIS CAGE WITH THE REST OF THOSE PARTY CRASHERS.



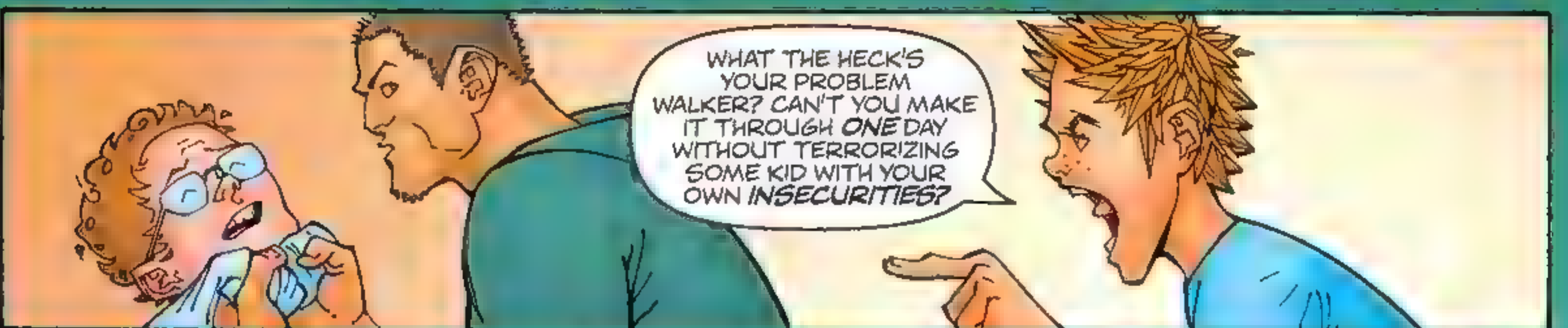
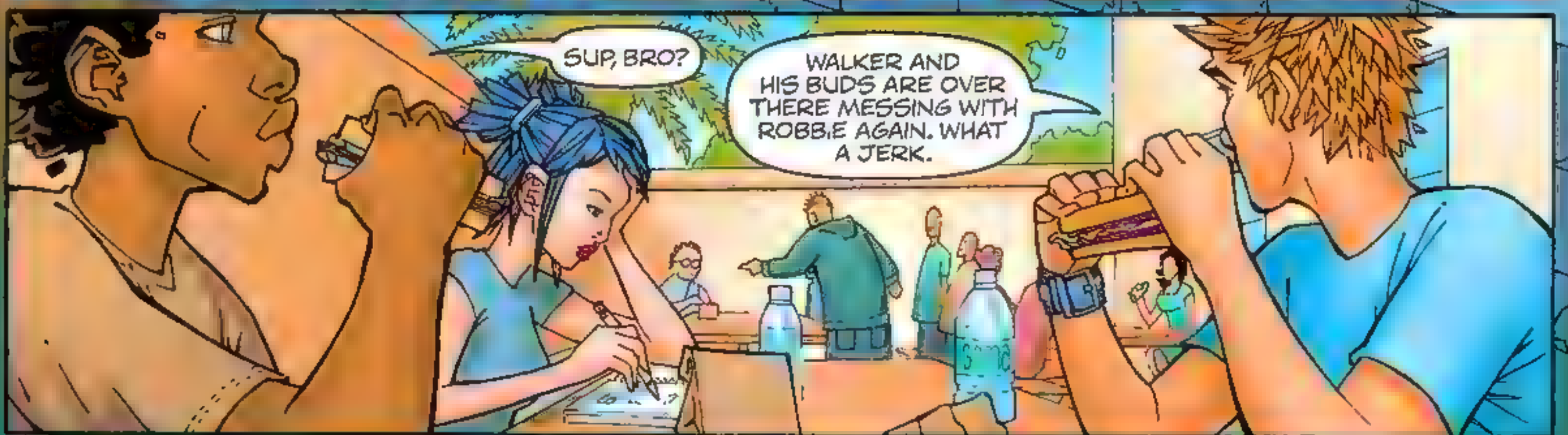
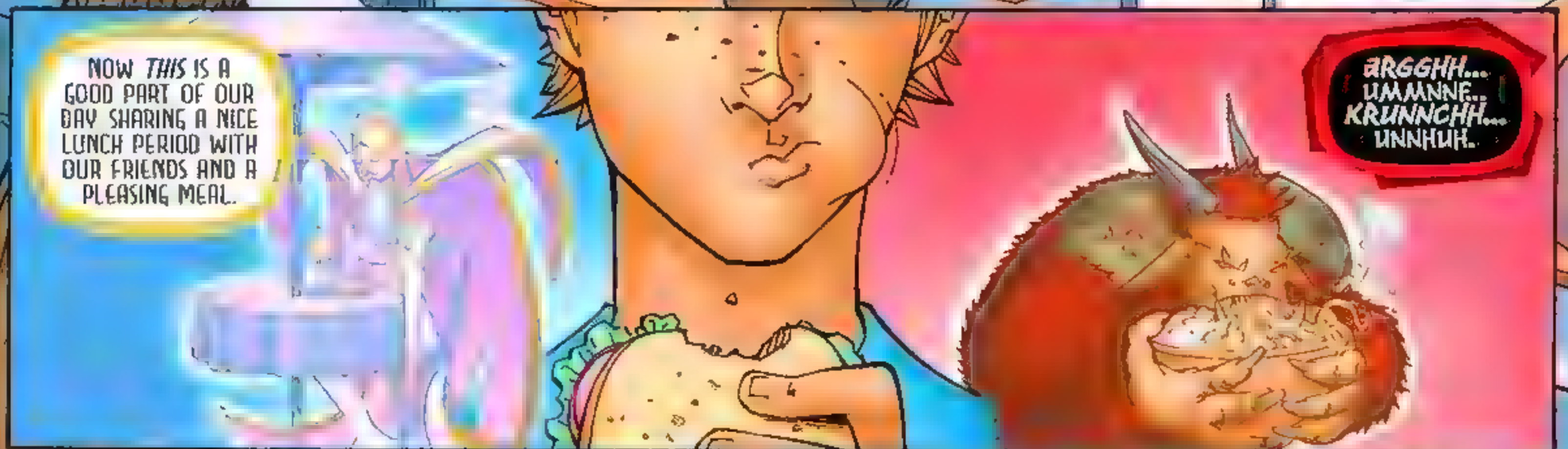
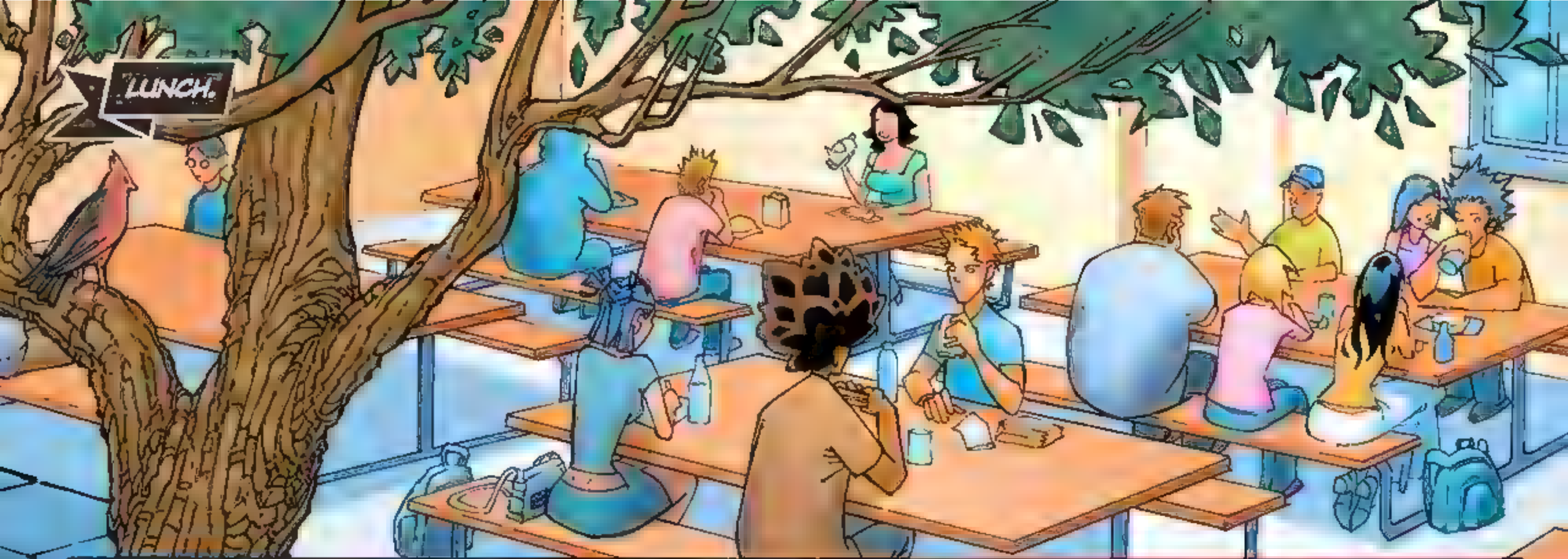
WHAT A TERRIBLE MESS. I AM GLAD THAT'S OVER.

ME TOO... FOR ONCE. AND I WAS SO DAMN EXCITED TO CUT THAT LITTLE SUCKER UP. IF I NEVER SEE ANOTHER FROG AGAIN, IT'LL BE TOO SOON.

RING RING

CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR POOR, UNFORTUNATE MS. S. IN THERE. OH WELL, SHE'LL BE BACK TO BARKING ORDERS AND GIVING OUT HOMEWORK TOMORROW. BETTER SAVOR THIS DAY WHILE WE CAN.

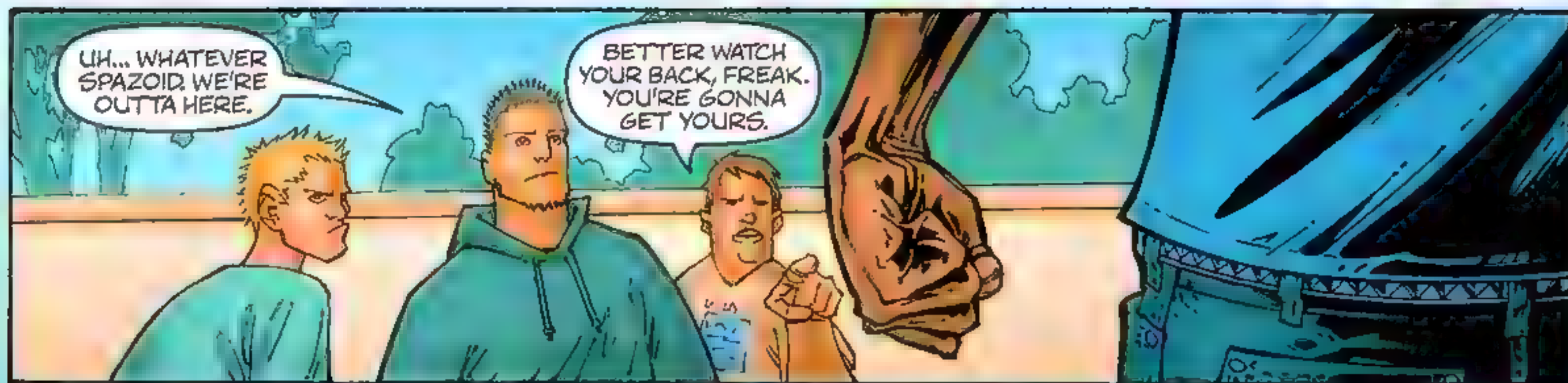






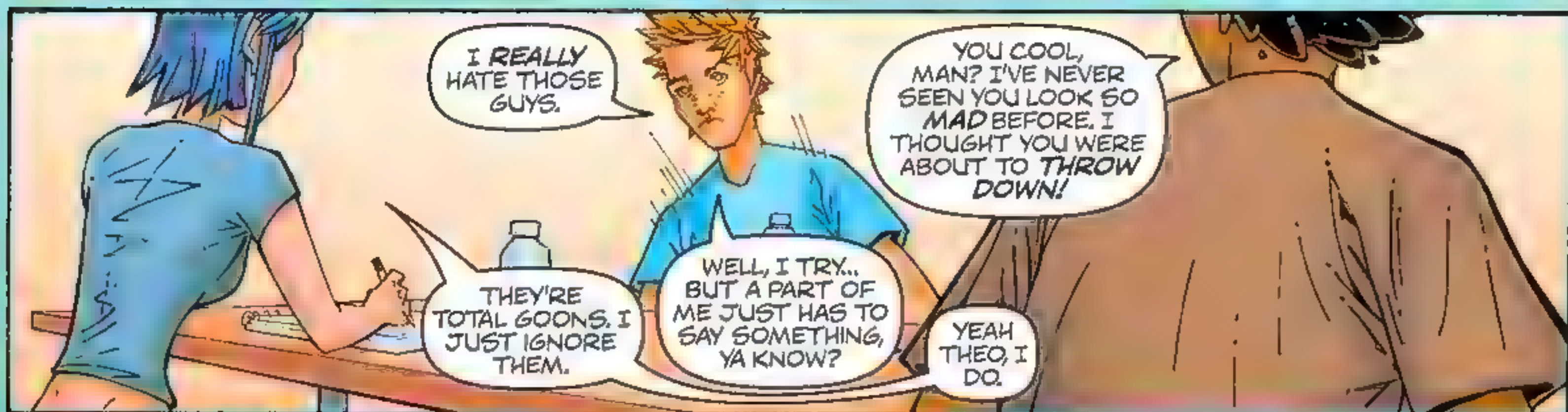
IF YOU EVER
TALK ABOUT MY
FAMILY AGAIN...

I WILL
KICK YOUR
ASS!!!



UH... WHATEVER
SPAZOID. WE'RE
OUTTA HERE.

BETTER WATCH
YOUR BACK, FREAK.
YOU'RE GONNA
GET YOURS.



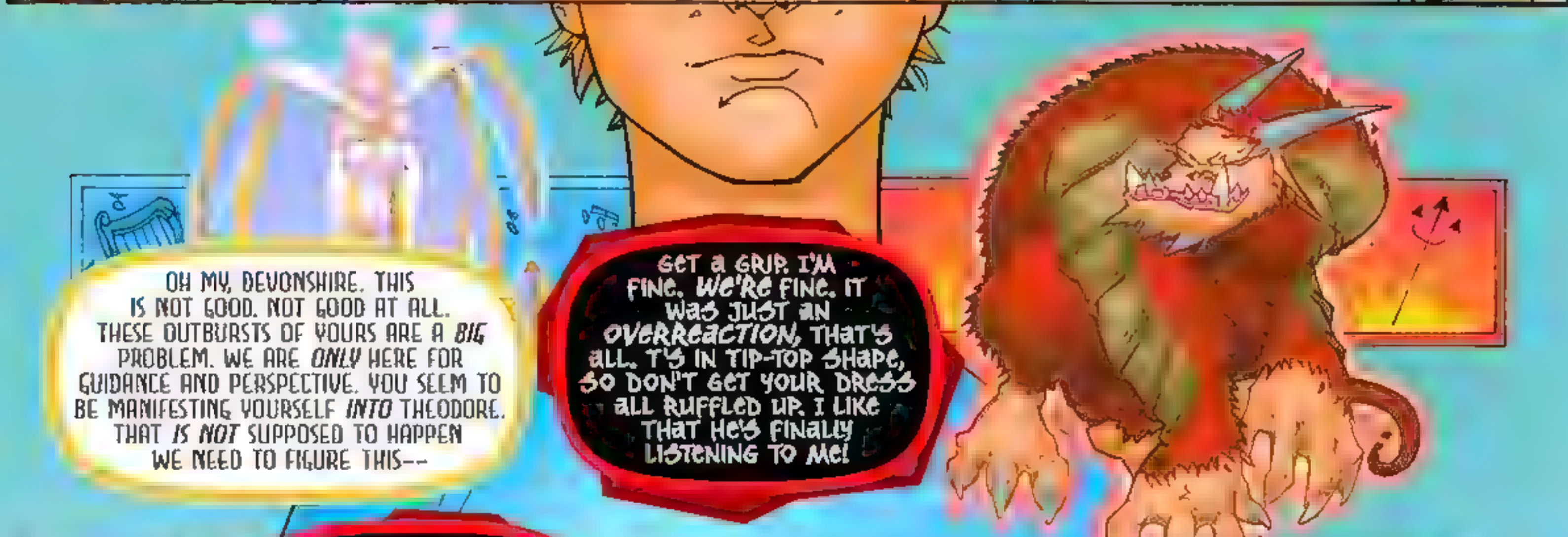
I REALLY
HATE THOSE
GUYS.

YOU COOL,
MAN? I'VE NEVER
SEEN YOU LOOK SO
MAD BEFORE. I
THOUGHT YOU WERE
ABOUT TO THROW
DOWN!

THEY'RE
TOTAL GOONS. I
JUST IGNORE
THEM.

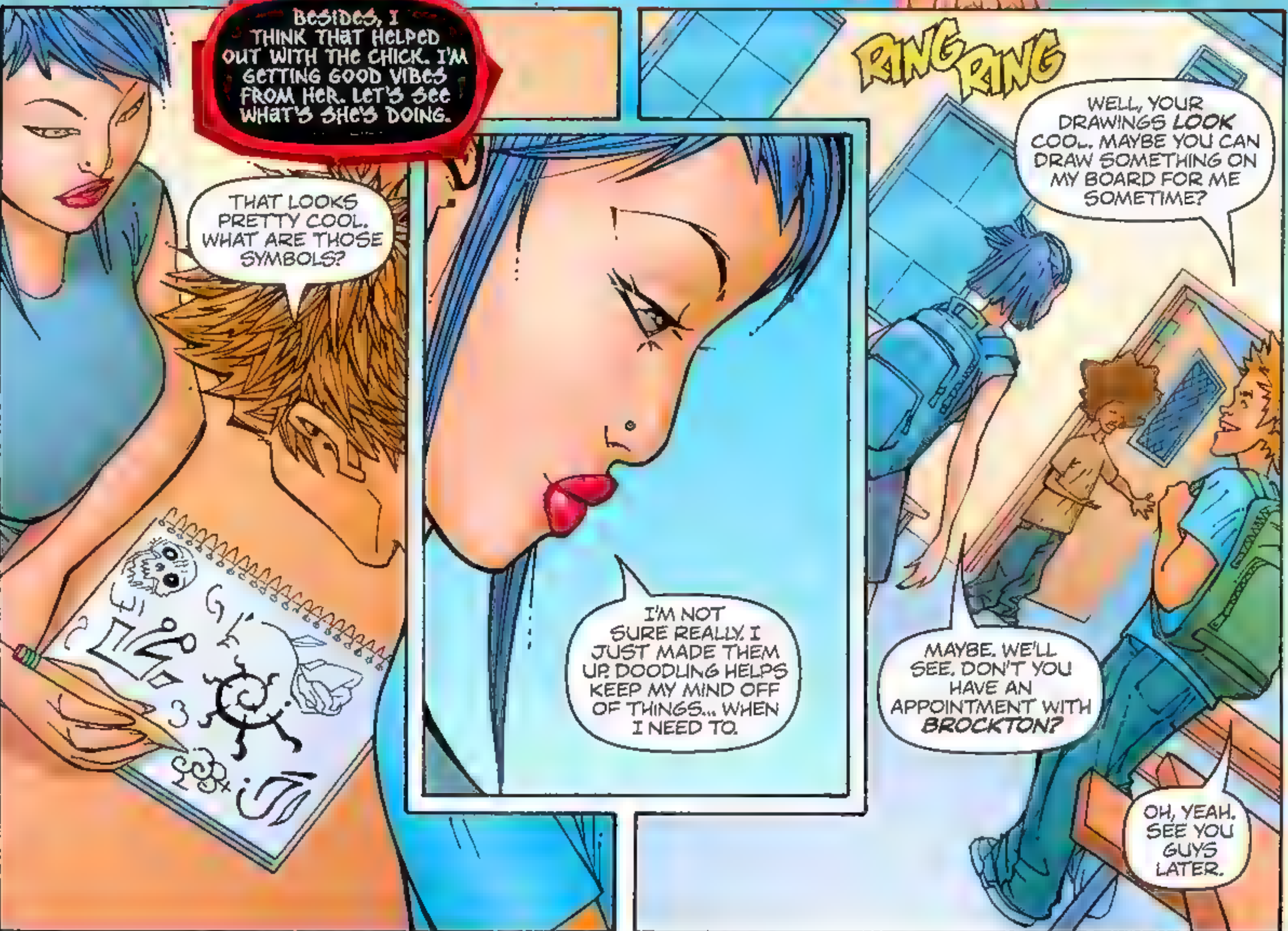
WELL, I TRY...
BUT A PART OF
ME JUST HAS TO
SAY SOMETHING,
YA KNOW?

YEAH
THEO, I
DO.



OH MY, DEVONSHIRE. THIS
IS NOT GOOD. NOT GOOD AT ALL.
THESE OUTBURSTS OF YOURS ARE A BIG
PROBLEM. WE ARE ONLY HERE FOR
GUIDANCE AND PERSPECTIVE. YOU SEEM TO
BE MANIFESTING YOURSELF INTO THEODORE.
THAT IS NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN
WE NEED TO FIGURE THIS--

GET A GRIP. I'M
FINE. WE'RE FINE. IT
WAS JUST AN
OVERREACTION, THAT'S
ALL. T'S IN TIP-TOP SHAPE,
SO DON'T GET YOUR DRESS
ALL RUFFLED UP. I LIKE
THAT HE'S FINALLY
LISTENING TO ME!



BESIDES, I
THINK THAT HELPED
OUT WITH THE CHICK. I'M
GETTING GOOD VIBES
FROM HER. LET'S SEE
WHAT'S SHE'S DOING.

THAT LOOKS
PRETTY COOL.
WHAT ARE THOSE
SYMBOLS?

I'M NOT
SURE REALLY. I
JUST MADE THEM
UP. DOODLING HELPS
KEEP MY MIND OFF
OF THINGS... WHEN
I NEED TO.

RING
RING

WELL, YOUR
DRAWINGS LOOK
COOL. MAYBE YOU CAN
DRAW SOMETHING ON
MY BOARD FOR ME
SOMETIME?

MAYBE. WE'LL
SEE. DON'T YOU
HAVE AN
APPOINTMENT WITH
BROCKTON?

OH, YEAH.
SEE YOU
GUYS
LATER.

Dr. Brockton, Ph.D. School Counselor

MR. GREENBERG SAYS YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A TOUGH TIME IN HIS CLASS LATELY. THERE WAS AN INCIDENT WITH AN OUTBURST THE OTHER DAY. AND THEN I HEARD SOMETHING HAPPENED IN BIOLOGY TODAY WITH SOME... FROGS.

THAT WASN'T MY FAULT!

I WASN'T BLAMING YOU, THEO. YOU SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF AGGRESSION LATELY. YOU DON'T RESEMBLE THE CALM, COOL, COLLECTED YOUNG MAN I FIRST MET WITH SIX WEEKS AGO.

I DON'T KNOW... IT'S LIKE... I HEAR THINGS.

WHAT SORT OF THINGS?

LIKE VOICES, IN MY HEAD. AND THEY SOUND DIFFERENT, LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO CONVINCE ME TO DO CONTRADICTING THINGS... AND UH... SOMETIMES THEY ARGUE.

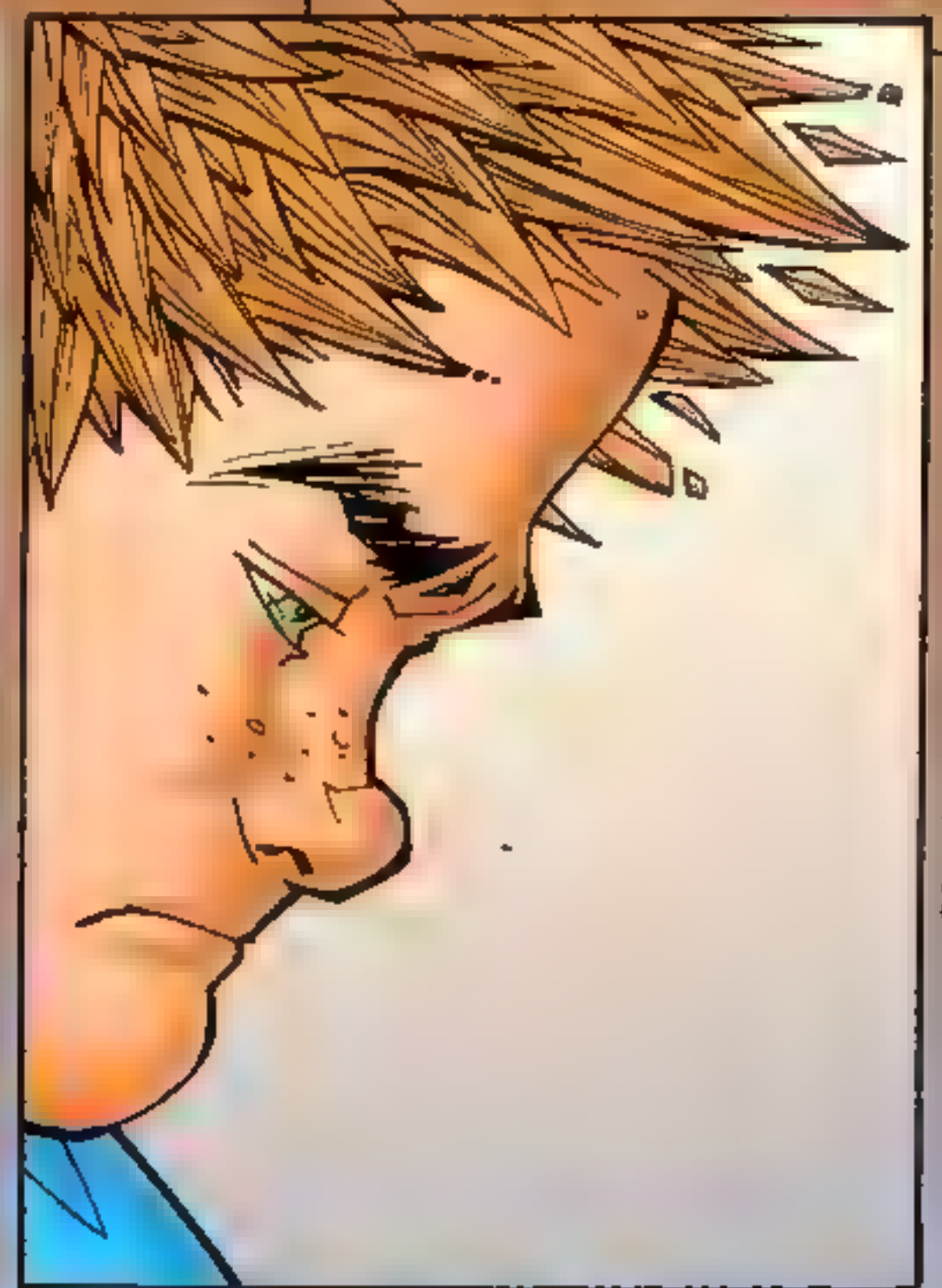
WELL THEO, THAT SOUNDS--

CRAZY, RIGHT?! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

AS YOU KNOW THEO, I'VE HAD A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FAMILY NOW FOR OVER FIVE YEARS. I USED TO SPEAK WITH YOUR **BROTHER** OFTEN.

MY... BROTHER?

YES THEO, HE HAD SOME SIMILAR... ISSUES. WE SHOULD TALK MORE ABOUT THIS TOMORROW.



OH THEO. DON'T BE SAD. WE'VE MADE SUCH GREAT PROGRESS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT T. YOU KICKED MAJOR ASS TODAY. I THINK WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACKS!

EVENING

YEAH, MY PARENTS ARE OUT OF TOWN UNTIL NEXT THURSDAY. I MADE MYSELF HOT POCKETS FOR DINNER. THESE NEW ONES ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD.

NAH, IT WENT ALRIGHT. MR. BROCKTON'S JUST TRYING TO HELP I GUESS. HAVING MANDATORY MEETINGS WITH HIM SEVERELY BLOWS, BUT GETTING OUT OF CLASS FOR THEM IS PRETTY COOL.

YEAH, SOUNDS GOOD. SEE YA TOMORROW. LATER THOM.

LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING GREAT BACK AT HOME. AH, THERE IS A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR AVOIDANCE OF--

AVOIDANCE... IS THAT ALL THEY TEACH YOU IN ELYSIA? AT LEAST IN NEFARIO, WE USE OUR AGGRESSIONS TO GO RIGHT AT THE PROBLEM! DAMN, I HAD A FIFTY SPOT ON THAT GAME.



WELL DEV,
AGGRESSION IS
NOT THE ANSWER.
ONE DAY YOU WILL
SEE WHAT I AM
TALKING ABOUT.

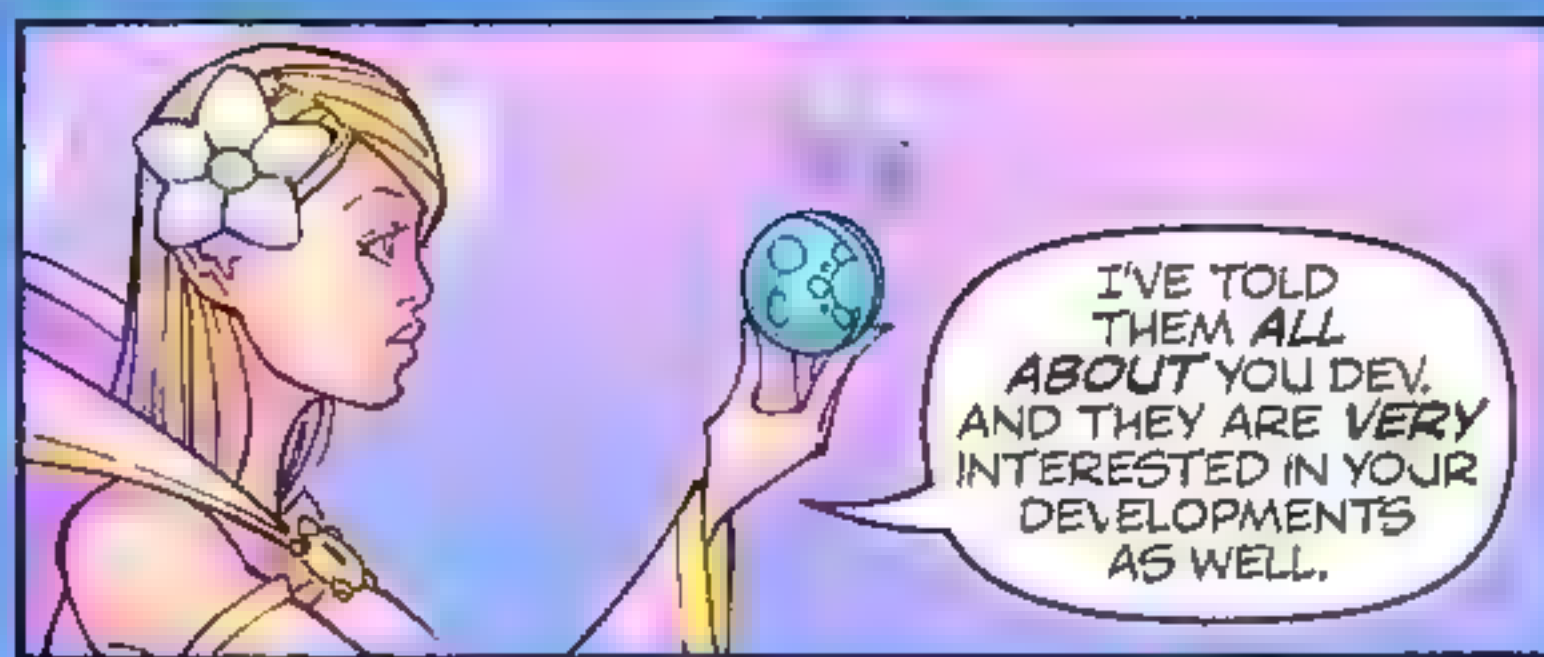
NOW, TO
SEND IN MY
PROGRESS
REPORT.

WHY DO YOU
KEEP SENDING
THOSE REPORTS? NO
ONE ELSE HAS TO SEND
REPORTS. WHO'S
GETTING ALL OF
THOSE???

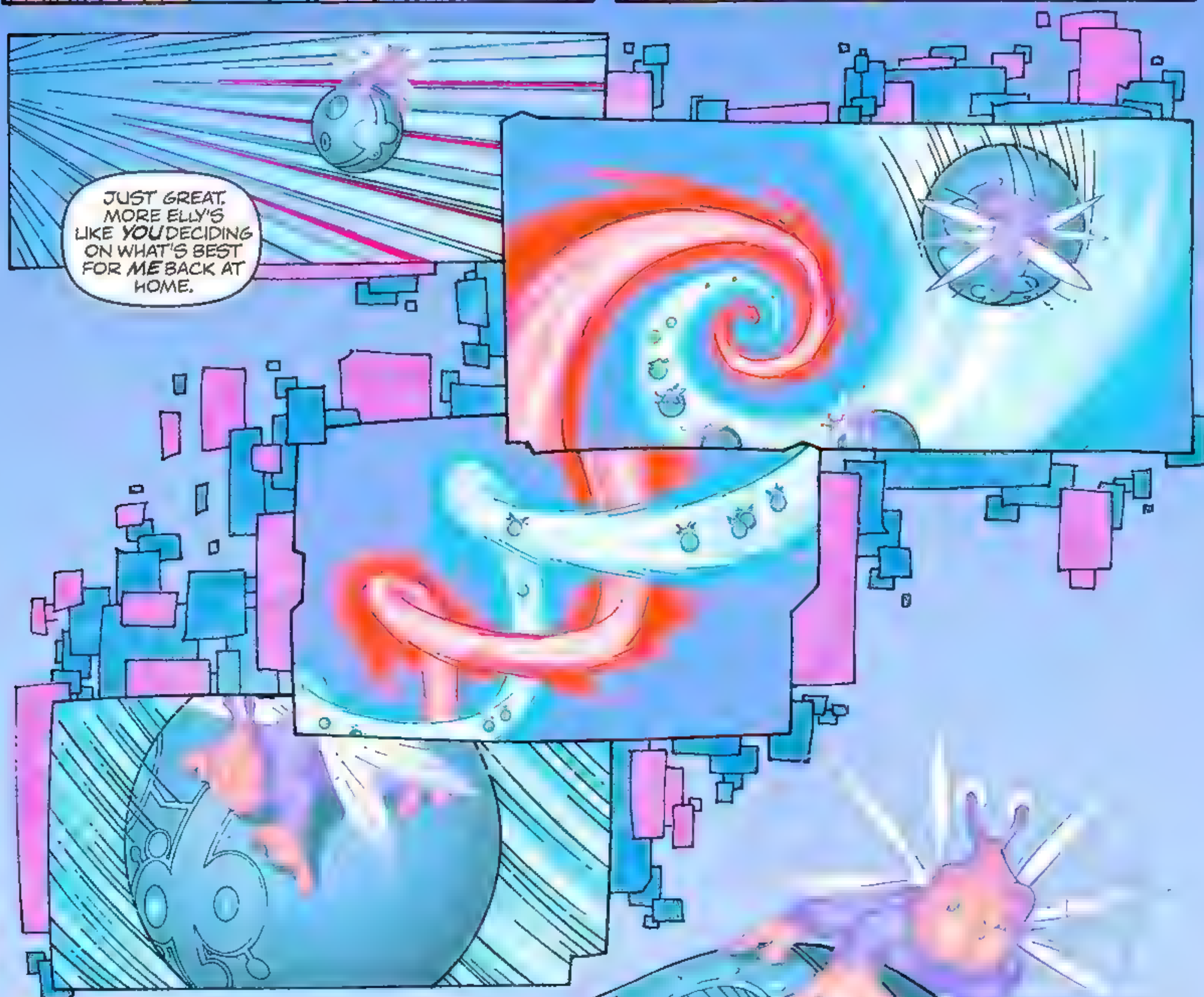
RELAX, DEV.
MY PEOPLE JUST
WANT TO CHECK OUR
PROGRESS WITH YOUNG
THEODORE. THEY THINK
MY WORK WITH HIM IS
VERY IMPORTANT
AND--



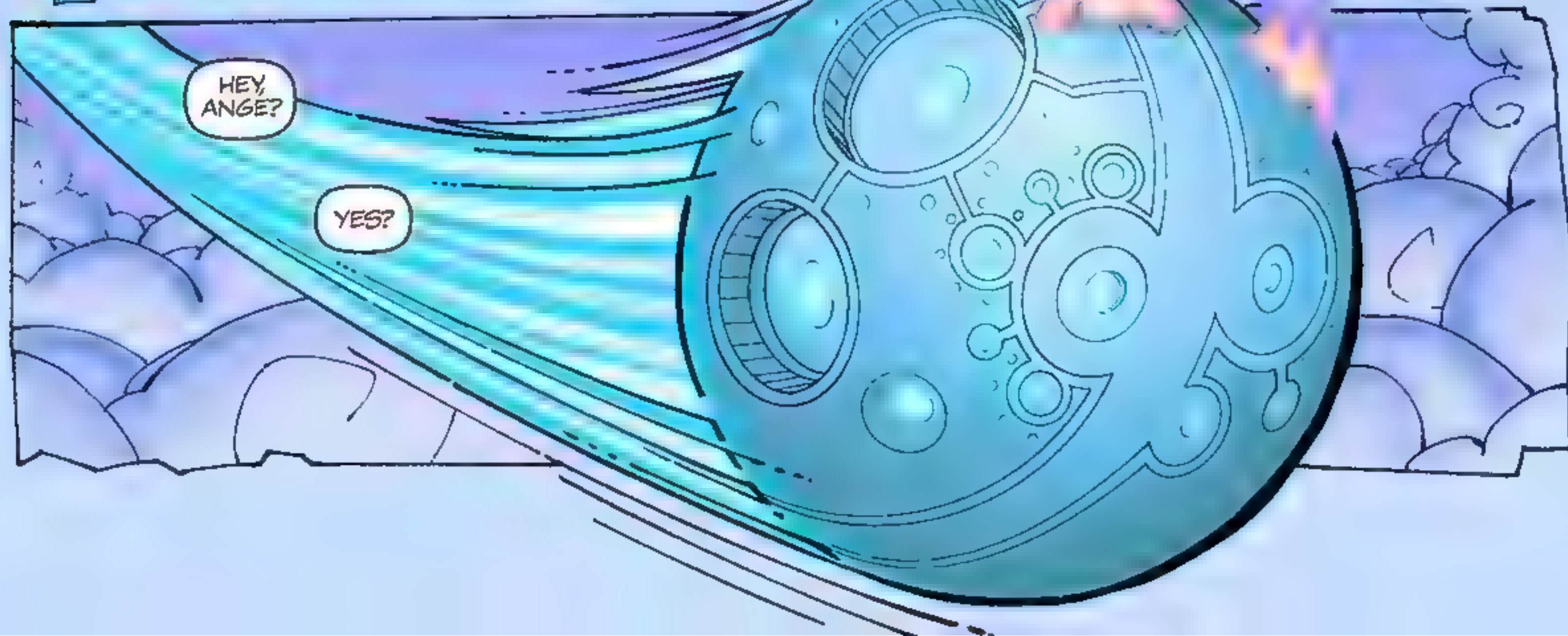
HEY DON'T
FORGET ABOUT
MY WORK IN YOUR
STUPID REPORT!



I'VE TOLD
THEM ALL
ABOUT YOU DEV.
AND THEY ARE VERY
INTERESTED IN YOUR
DEVELOPMENTS
AS WELL.



JUST GREAT,
MORE ELLY'S
LIKE YOU DECIDING
ON WHAT'S BEST
FOR ME BACK AT
HOME.



HEY,
ANGE?

YES?

DO YOU
MISS HOME?
DO YOU MISS
PERSPECTA?

SOMETIMES.

YEAH, ME
TOO.

TO BE CONTINUED



VOL. 1

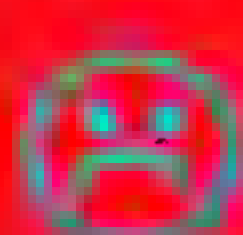
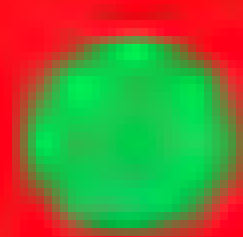
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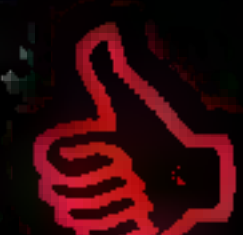
COVER A

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SHRUGGED



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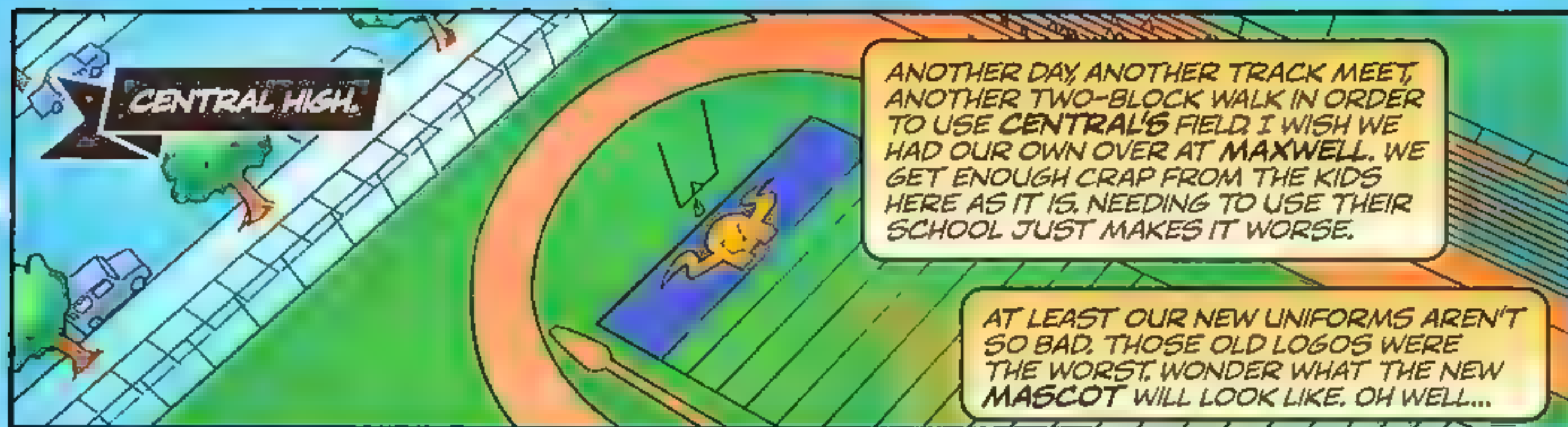
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CENTRAL HIGH.

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER TRACK MEET, ANOTHER TWO-BLOCK WALK IN ORDER TO USE CENTRAL'S FIELD. I WISH WE HAD OUR OWN OVER AT MAXWELL. WE GET ENOUGH CRAP FROM THE KIDS HERE AS IT IS, NEEDING TO USE THEIR SCHOOL JUST MAKES IT WORSE.

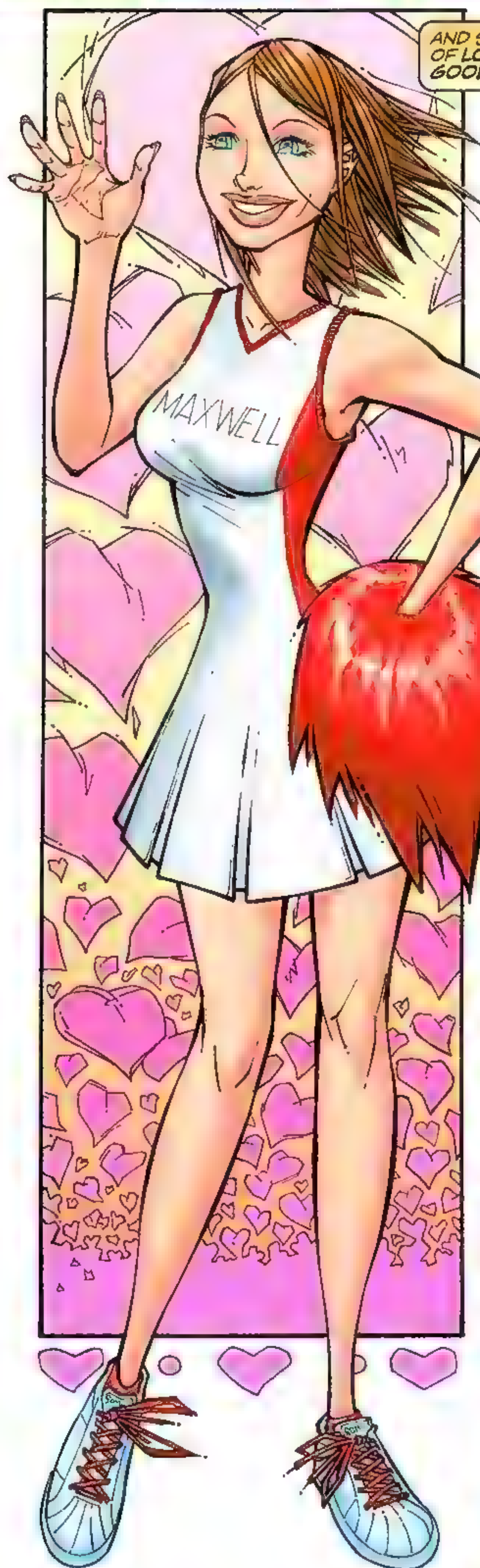
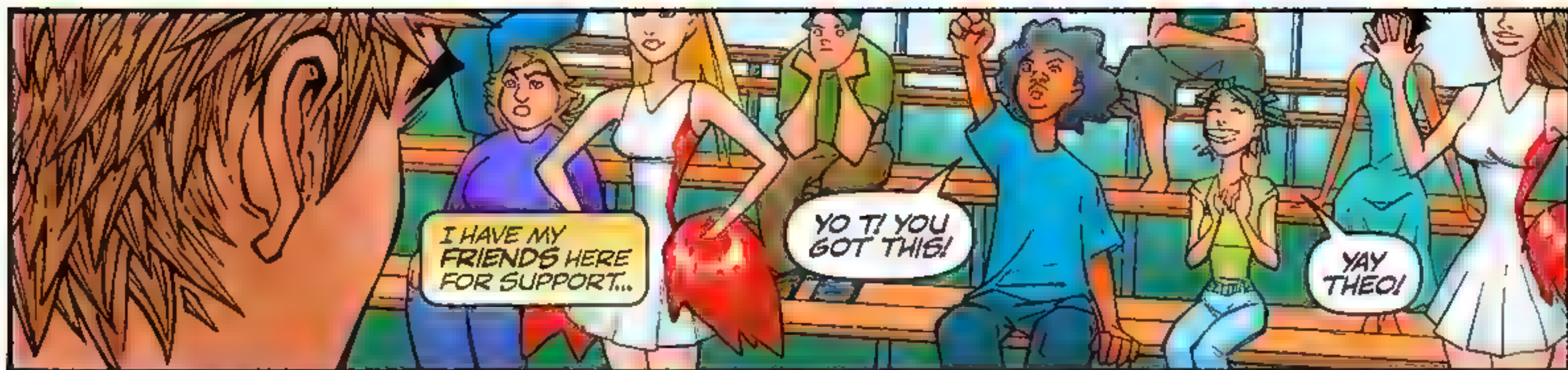
AT LEAST OUR NEW UNIFORMS AREN'T SO BAD. THOSE OLD LOGOS WERE THE WORST. WONDER WHAT THE NEW MASCOT WILL LOOK LIKE. OH WELL...



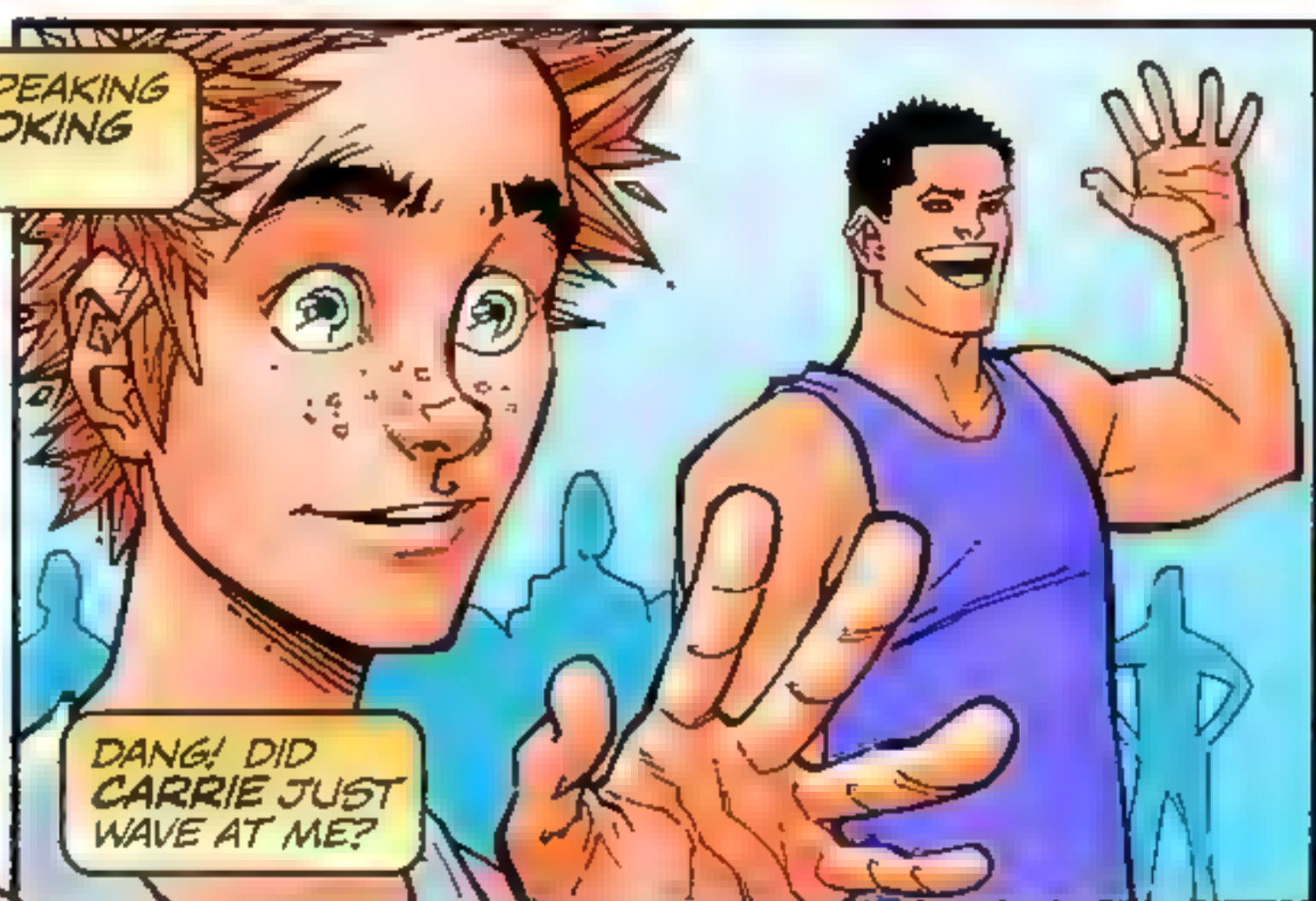
THANKFULLY MY NEW TRACK TERROR 4'S ARE THE BOMB! THESE NEOPRENE LACES LOOK LIKE THEY WORK GREAT.

TODAY'S ACTUALLY LOOKING TO BE A PRETTY GOOD DAY.

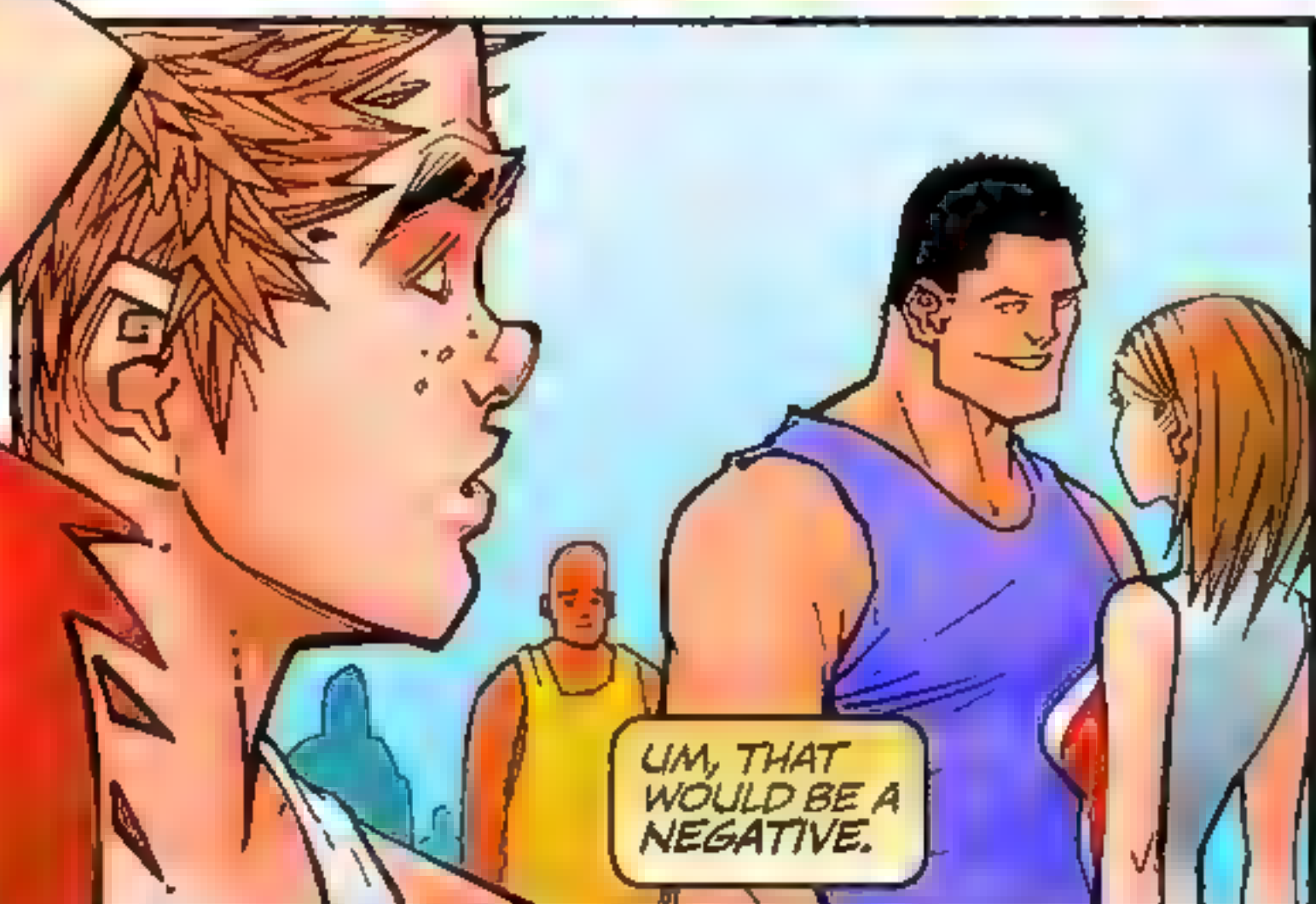




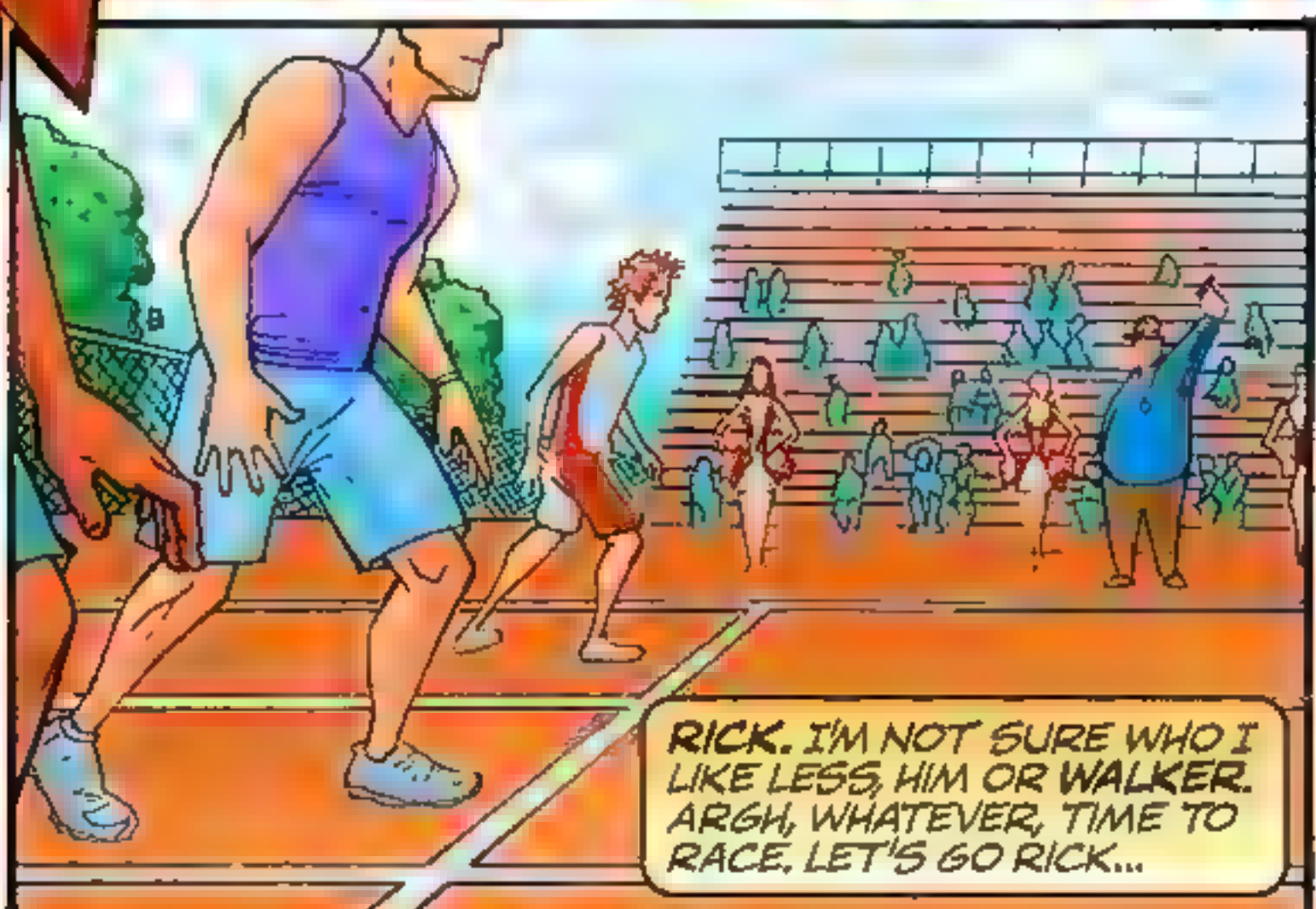
AND SPEAKING
OF LOOKING
GOOD.



DANG! DID
CARRIE JUST
WAVE AT ME?



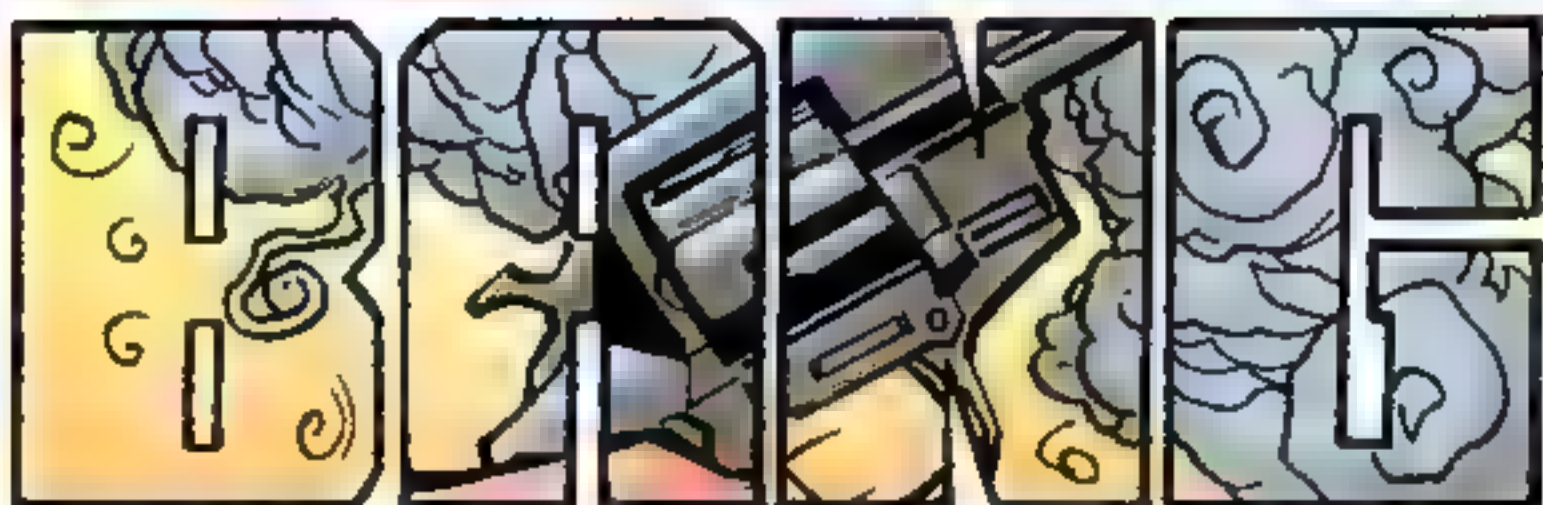
UM, THAT
WOULD BE A
NEGATIVE.



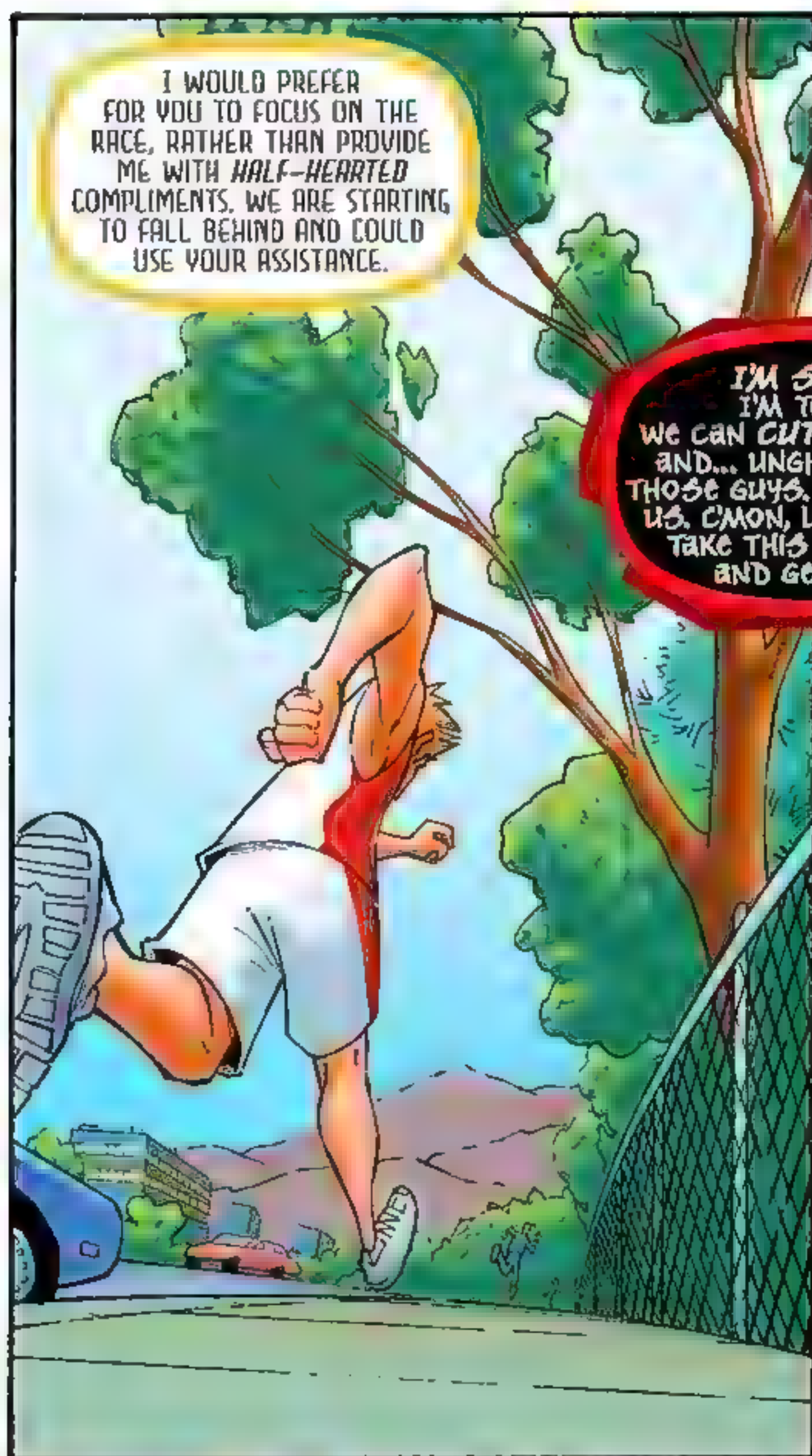
RICK. I'M NOT SURE WHO I
LIKE LESS, HIM OR WALKER.
ARGH, WHATEVER, TIME TO
RACE. LET'S GO RICK...



MAY THE
BEST
MAN WIN.

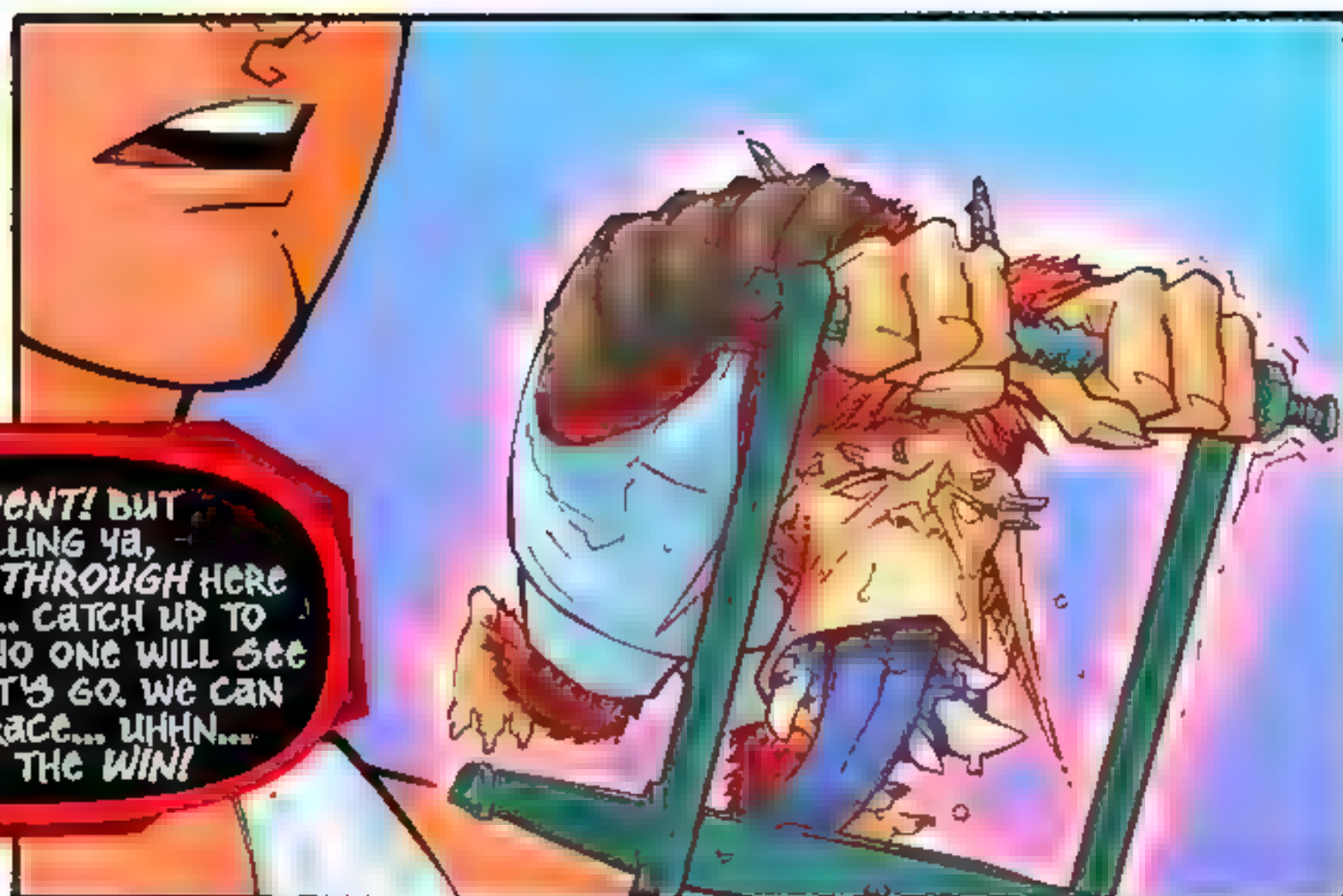






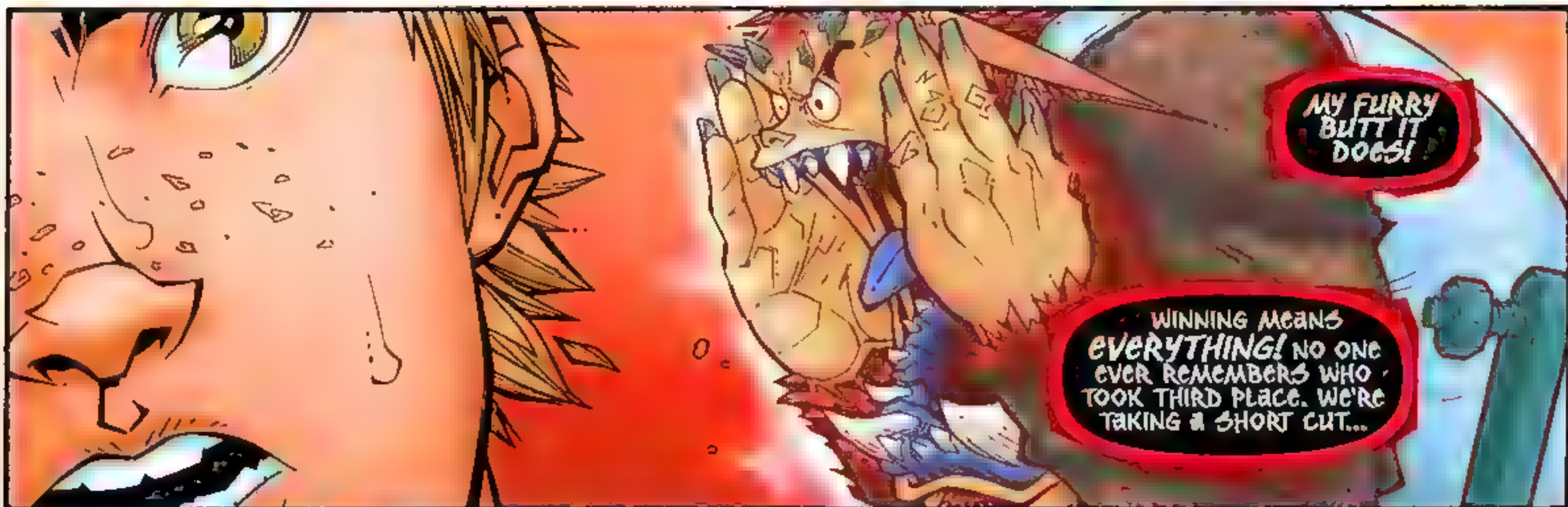
I WOULD PREFER FOR YOU TO FOCUS ON THE RACE, RATHER THAN PROVIDE ME WITH **HALF-HEARTED** COMPLIMENTS. WE ARE STARTING TO FALL BEHIND AND COULD USE YOUR ASSISTANCE.

I'M SPENT! BUT I'M TELLING YA, WE CAN **CUT THROUGH** HERE AND... UNGH... CATCH UP TO THOSE GUYS. NO ONE WILL SEE US. C'MON, LET'S GO. WE CAN TAKE THIS RACE... UHHN... AND GET THE **WIN!**



WE ARE NOT CHEATERS. GOING THROUGH AN AREA OF THE FOREST WE ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH WOULD NOT ONLY BE **WRONG**, IT WOULD BE **DANGEROUS**.

AS LONG AS WE KEEP PACE AHEAD OF THE REST OF THE GROUP WE'LL PLACE RESPECTIVELY IN THE RACE. PLAYING FAIR AND RUNNING A GOOD RACE MEANS **MORE** THAN WINNING.



MY **FURRY BUTT** IT DOES!

WINNING MEANS **EVERYTHING!** NO ONE EVER REMEMBERS WHO TOOK THIRD PLACE. WE'RE TAKING A **SHORT CUT...**

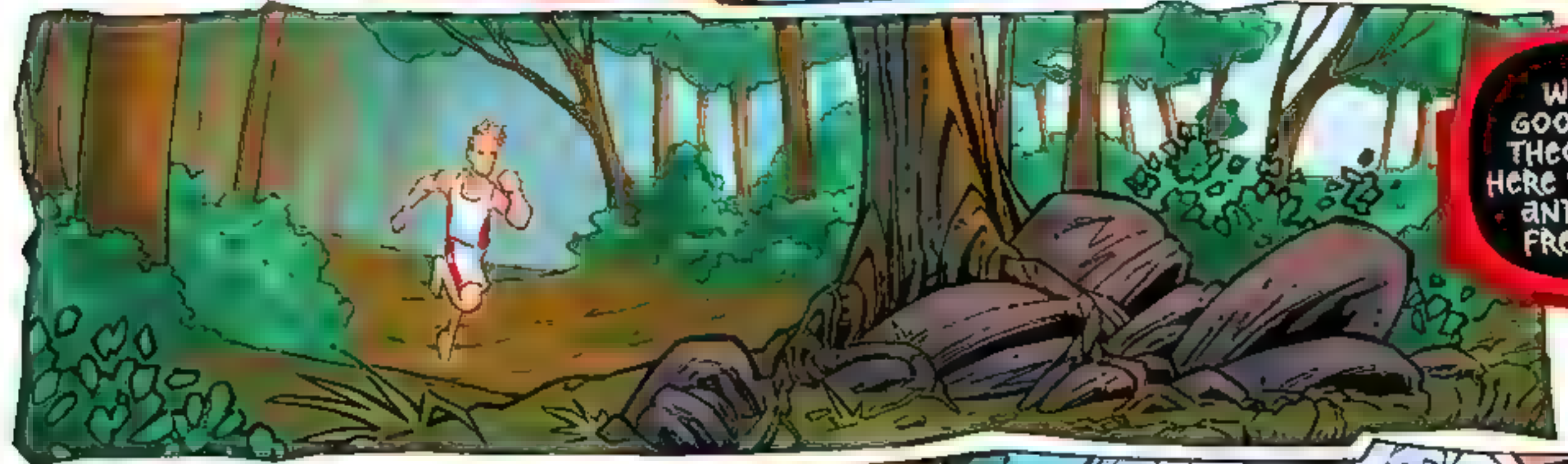
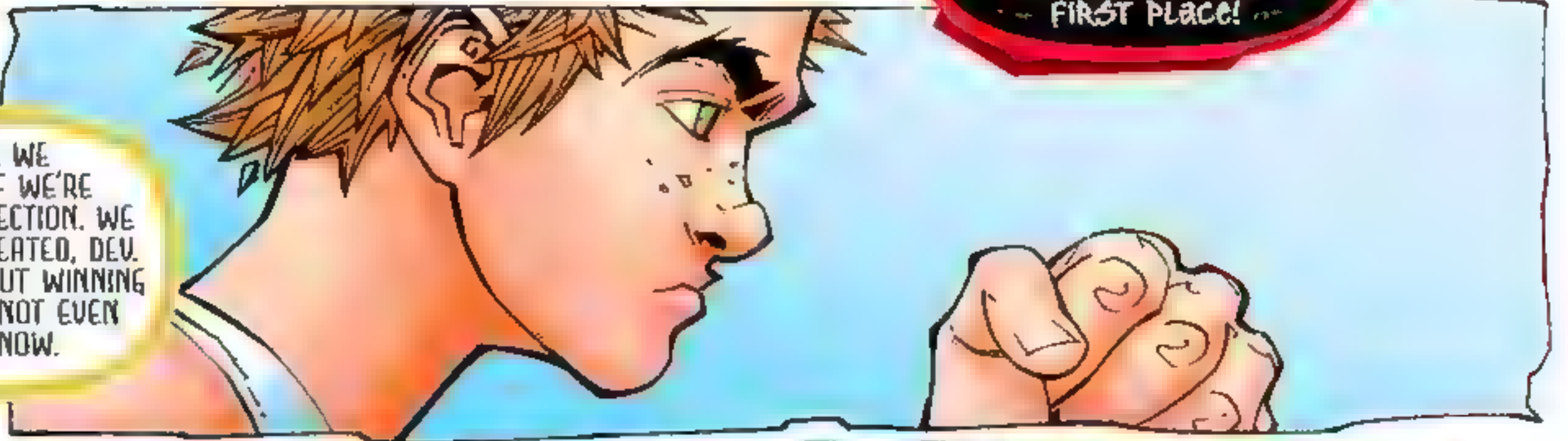


NOW!!



THAT'S IT BABY!
KEEP HEADING
STRAIGHT THIS WAY AND
WE'LL CATCH UP IN NO
TIME. HECK, WE MAY EVEN
COME OUT OF HERE IN
FIRST PLACE!

THIS IS TERRIBLE. WE
DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE'RE
GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WE
SHOULD NEVER HAVE CHEATED, DEV.
YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT WINNING
THAT I FEAR WE MAY NOT EVEN
FINISH THIS RACE NOW.



always
WORRYING. WE'RE
GOOD I'M TELLING YA.
THEO WILL BE OUT OF
HERE IN A FEW SECONDS
AND WE'LL BE HOME
FREE. WAIT A SEC...



LOOK OUT!

AHHHH!!!!

NOOO!!!





NO... WAY.

DID I... DID I JUST FLY? WHAT THE HECK JUST HAPPENED?

yeah, angel!!
WHAT THE ~~SHIT~~ JUST HAPPENED?!? HOW DID YOU JUST DO THAT? I MEAN, THERE'S BEEN SOME WEIRD THINGS GOING ON LATELY BUT...

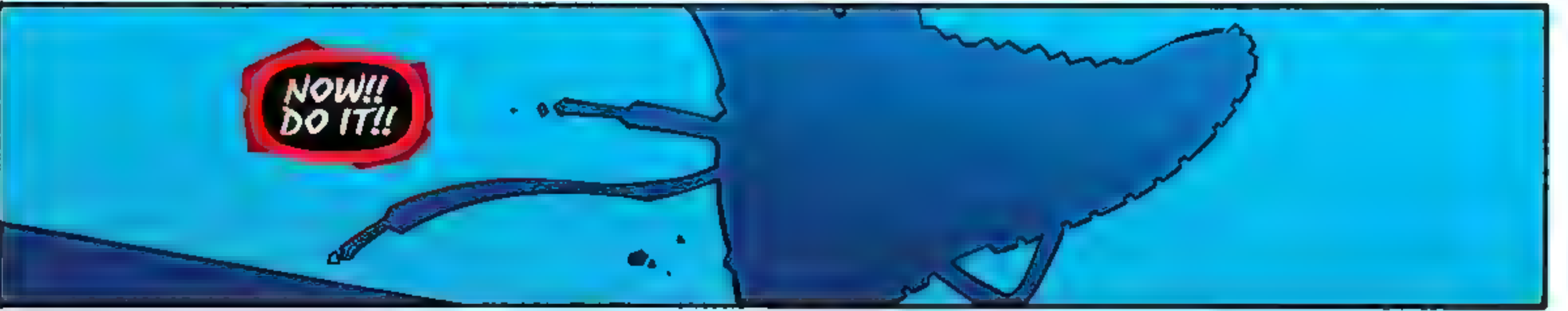
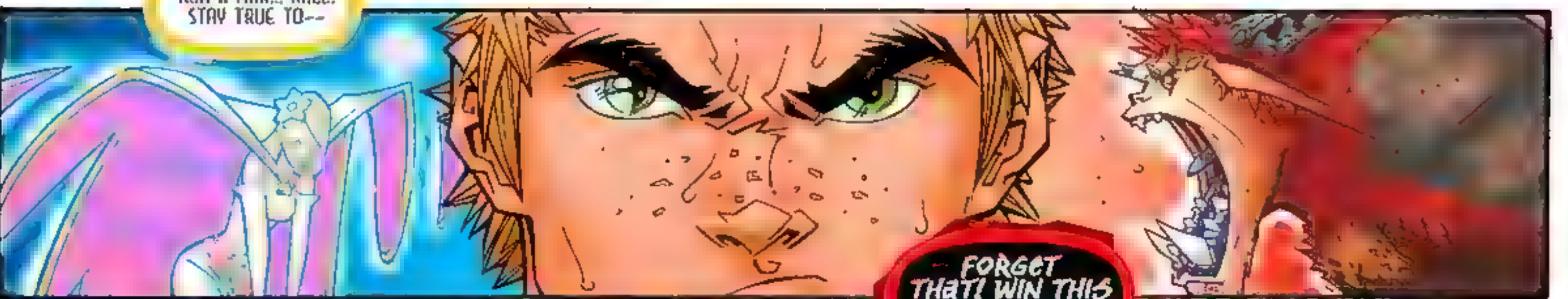
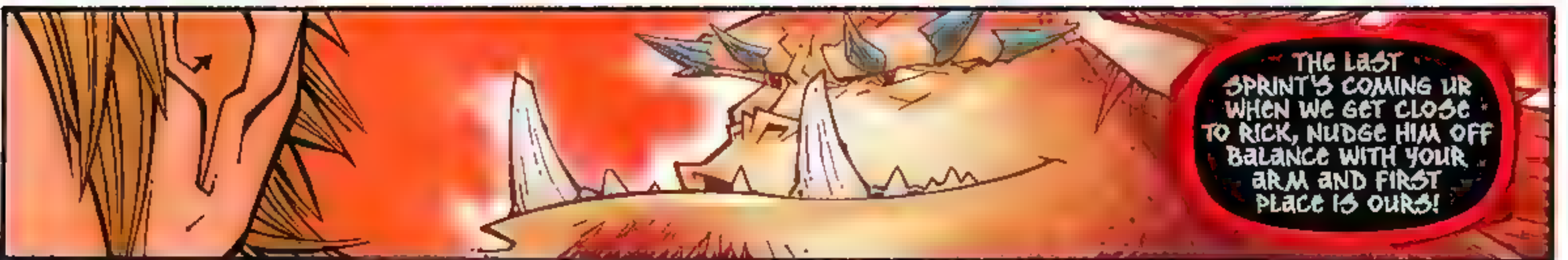
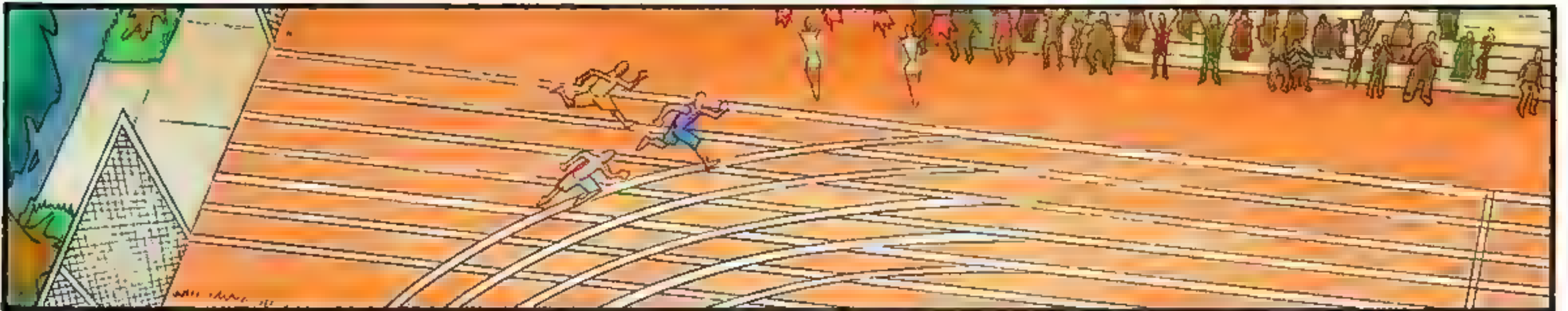
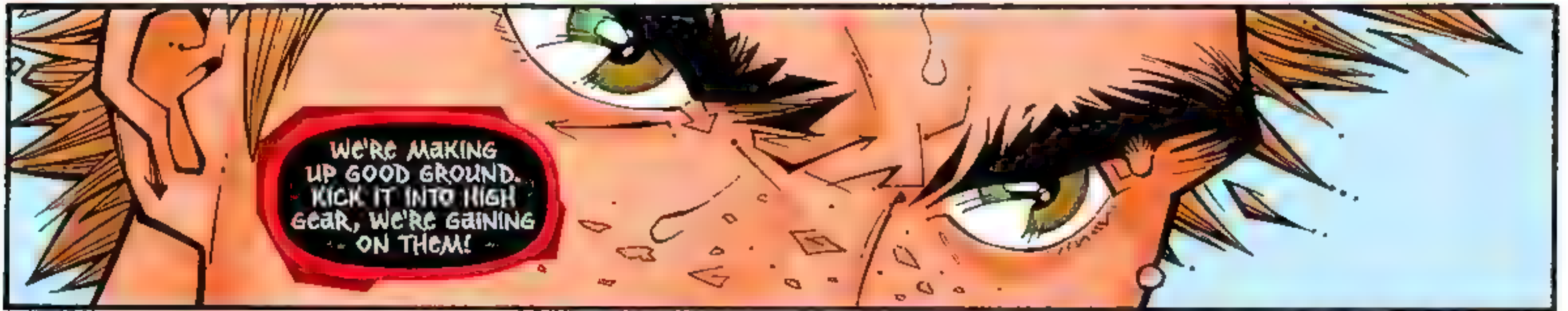
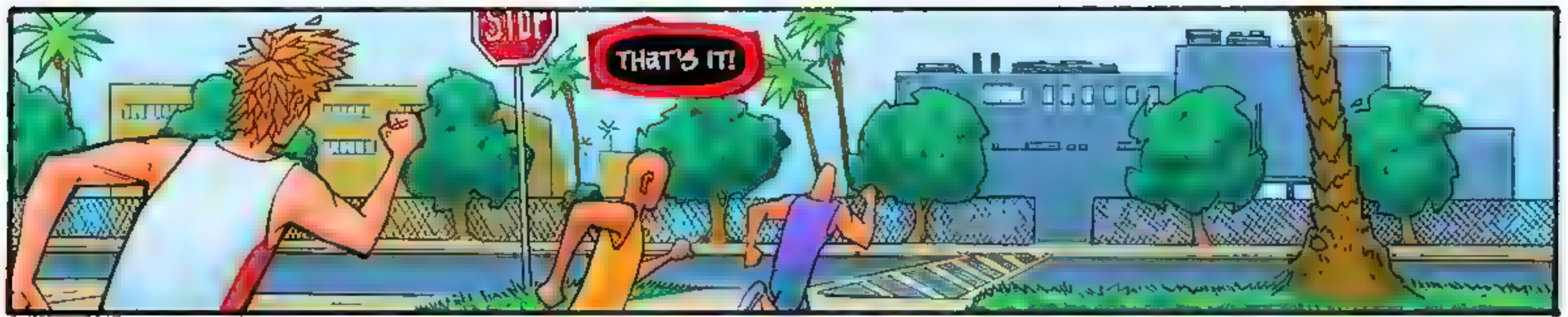
THAT WAS WAY MORE EXTREME THAN WHAT I DID DURING LUNCH THE OTHER DAY! YOU ACTUALLY APPLIED YOURSELF IN THEO'S WORLD! THAT WAS AMAZING!!

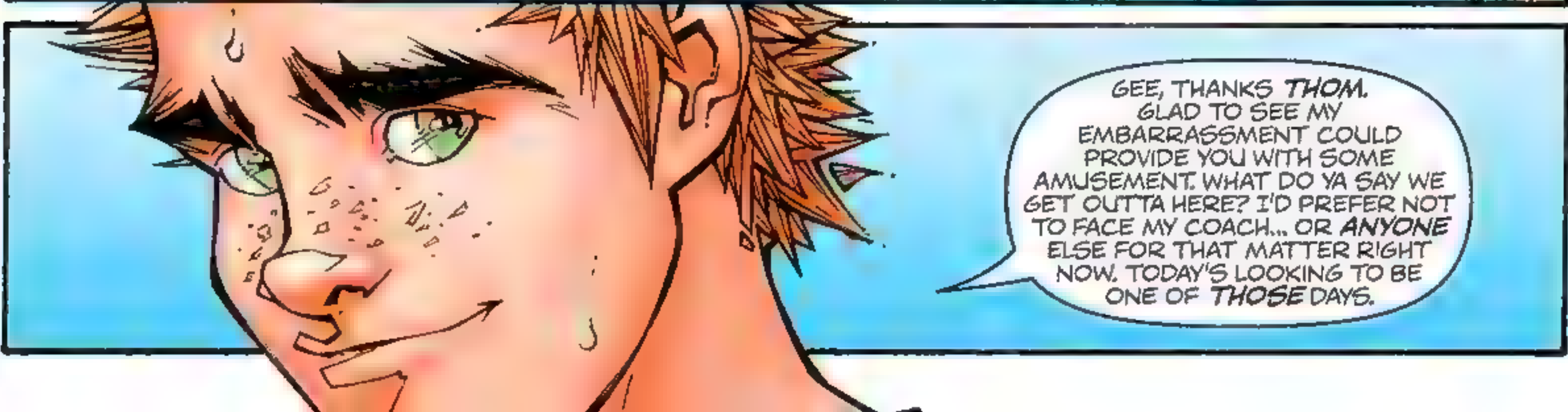
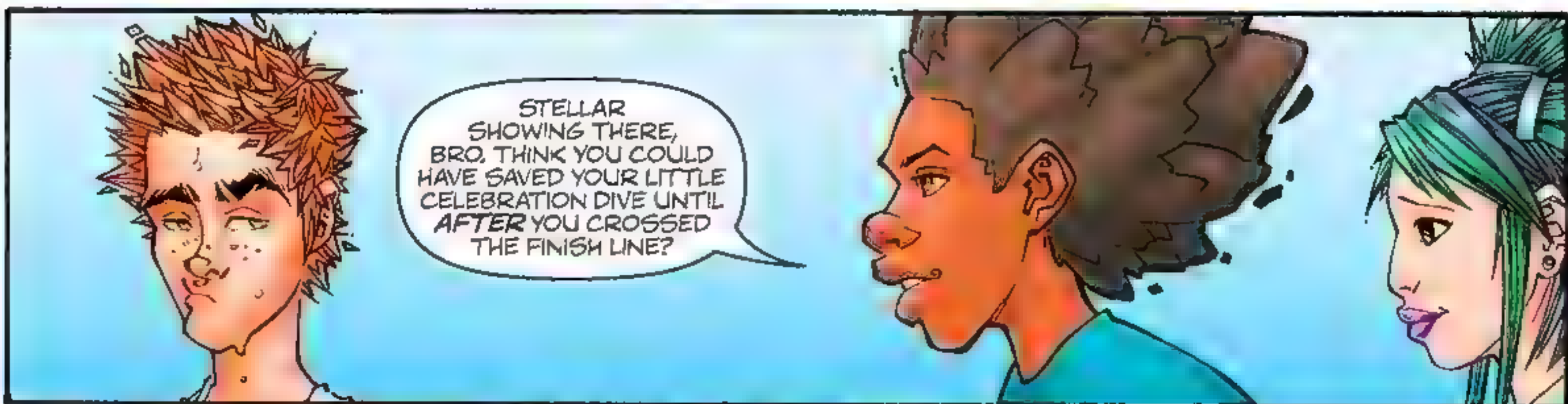
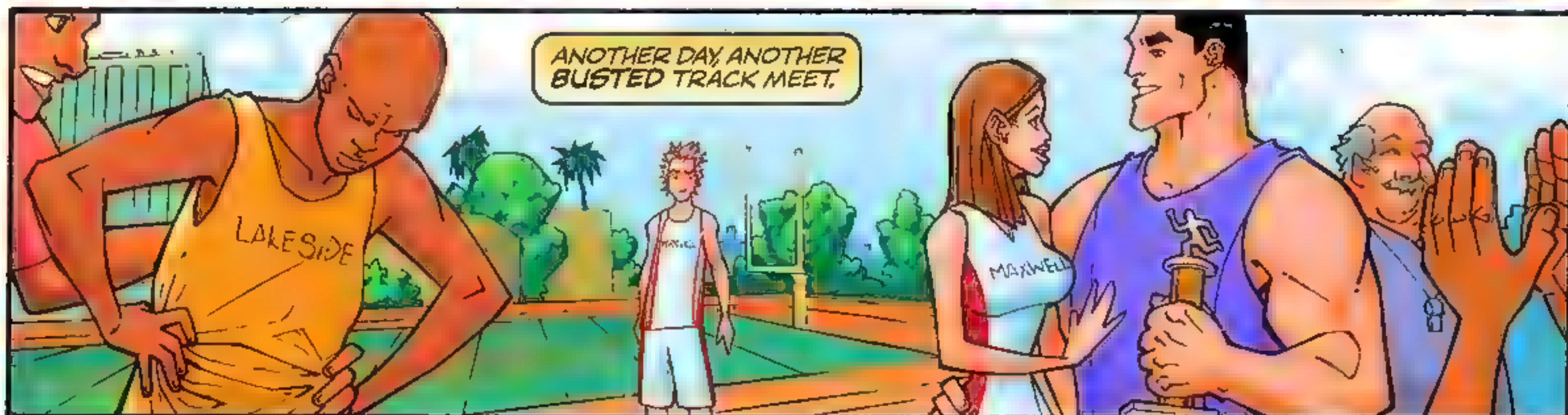
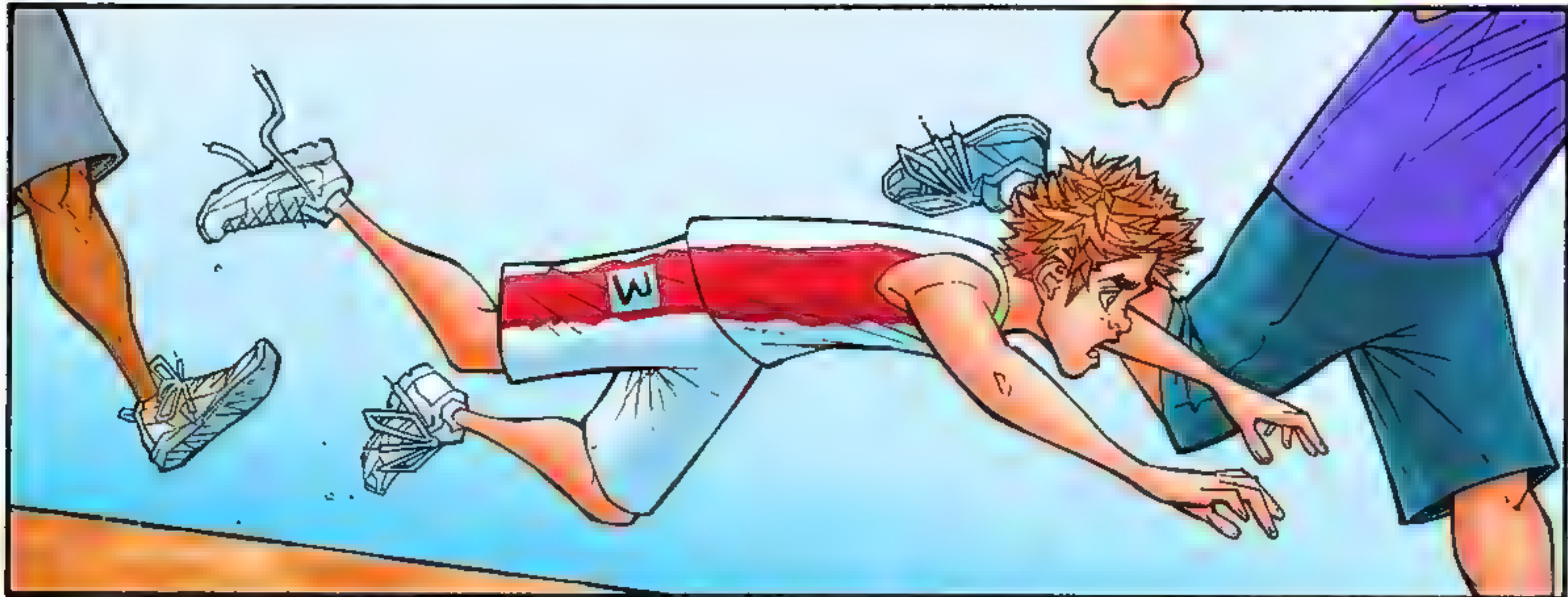
I DO NOT KNOW.

WE WERE GOING TO FALL AND I COULD NOT... COULD NOT LET THEODORE GET HURT. I JUST... REACTED.

WELL THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A REACTION! NOT ONLY DID YOU SAVE US, I THINK YOU GOT US BACK IN THIS RACE! THERE'S A CLEARING JUST UP AHEAD. LET'S WIN THIS BABY AND FIGURE OUT THE SECRET BEHIND YOUR MAGIC TRICK LATER.

MOVE IT T!!





PERSPECTA.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN EQUAL LEVEL OF BALANCE BETWEEN THE INHABITANTS OF OUR WORLD.

THE ELYSIANS AND THE NEFARIANS.

TWO COMPLETELY SEPARATE RACES, POSSESSING OPPOSITE TRAITS, BUT HAVING THE SAME ULTIMATE GOAL AT HAND... THE LIFE LONG DEVELOPMENT OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS.

OVER COUNTLESS CENTURIES, AND THROUGHOUT THE DAWNING OF MANKIND OUR WORLD WAS SPLIT IN HALF, EVENLY, TO HELP AID IN KEEPING THAT BALANCE LEVEL.

BUT TIMES ARE CHANGING.

A NEW POWER HAS RISEN FROM WITHIN.

A NEW LEADER, FOR THE MASSES TO FOLLOW... AND SERVE.

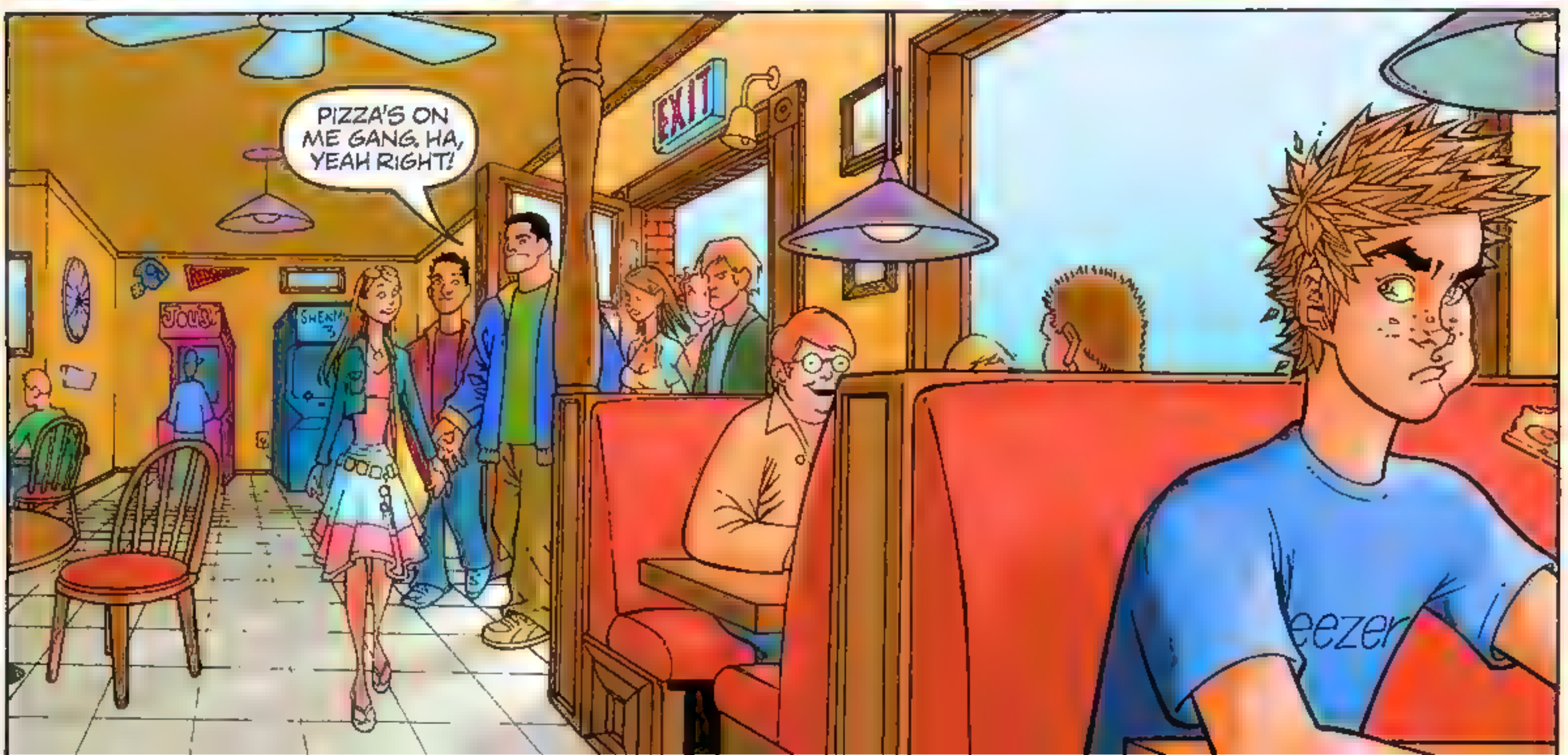
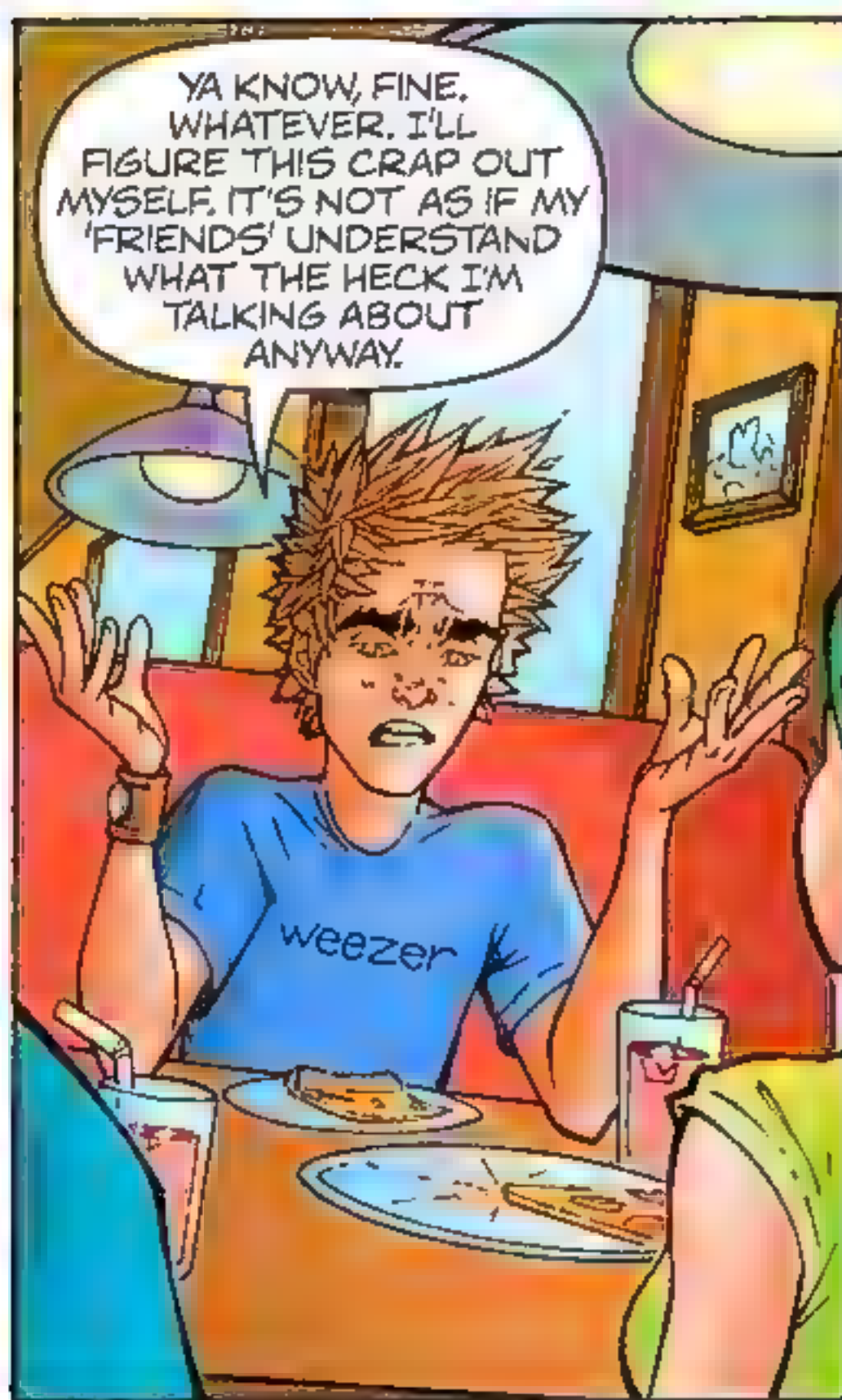
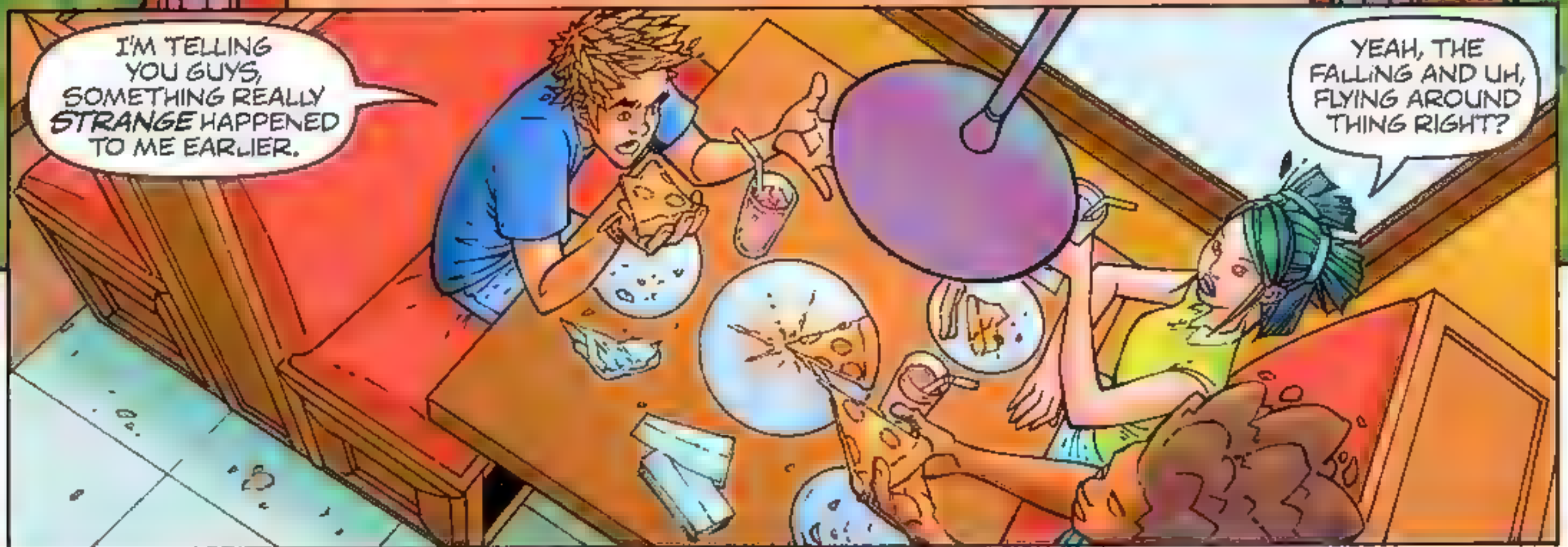
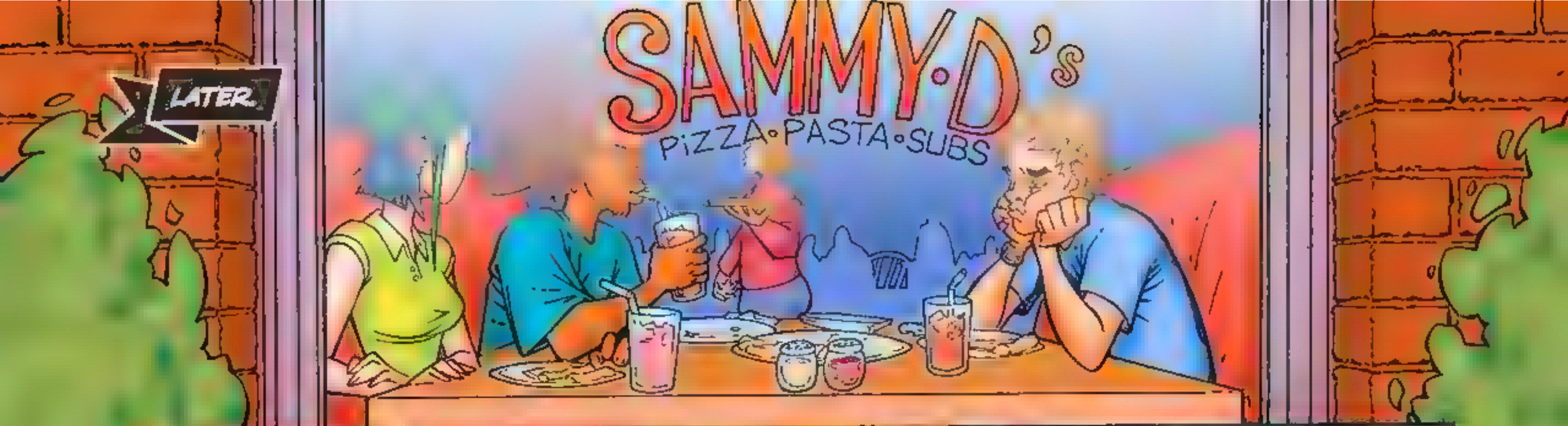
WITH THE SHIFTING OF POWER, OUR DELICATE BALANCE OF EQUALITY HAS BEGUN TO STRAIN UNDER THE PRESSURE.

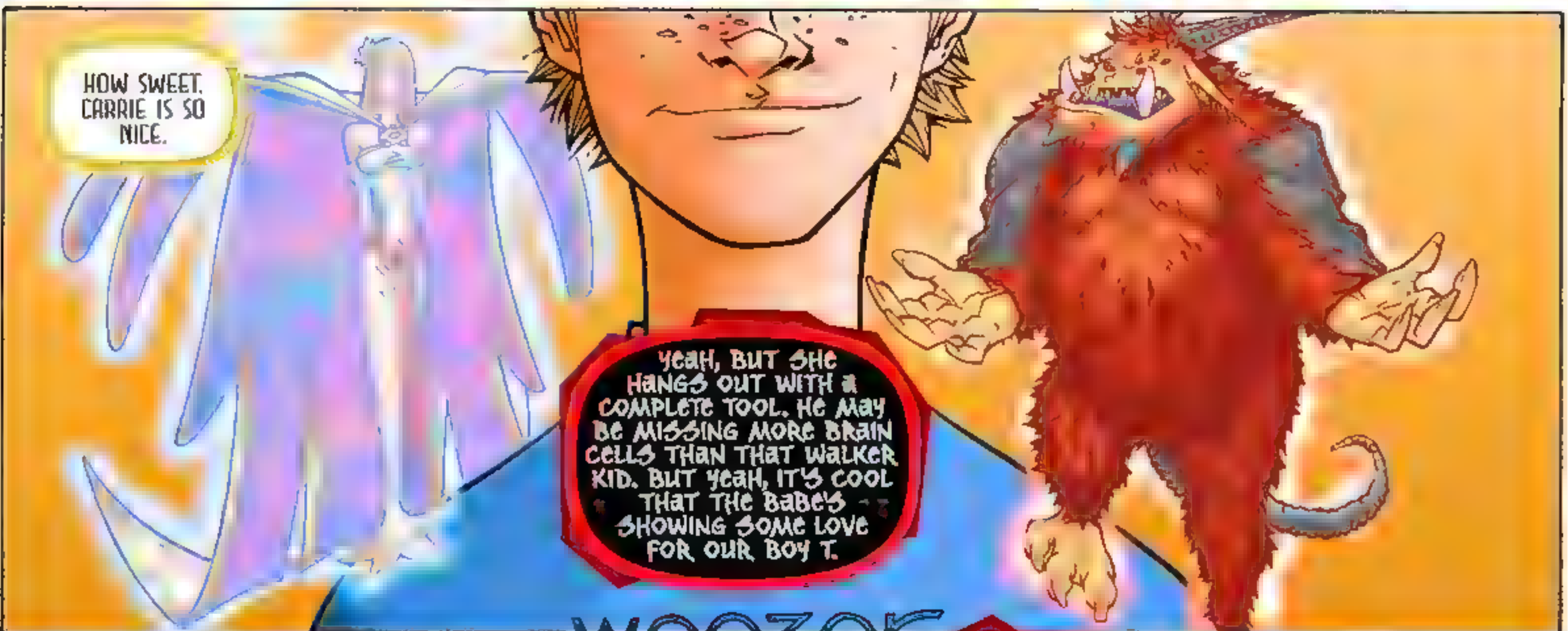
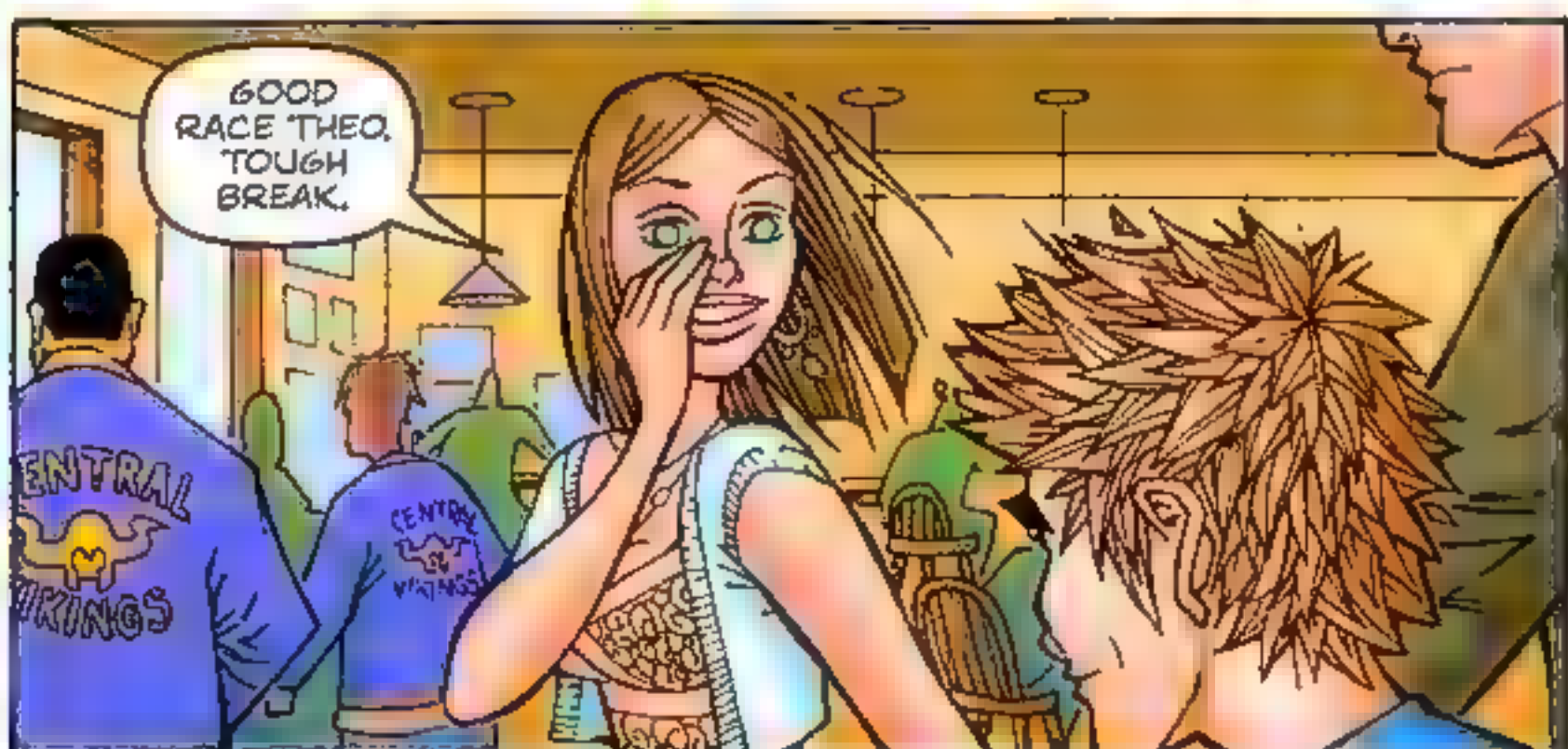
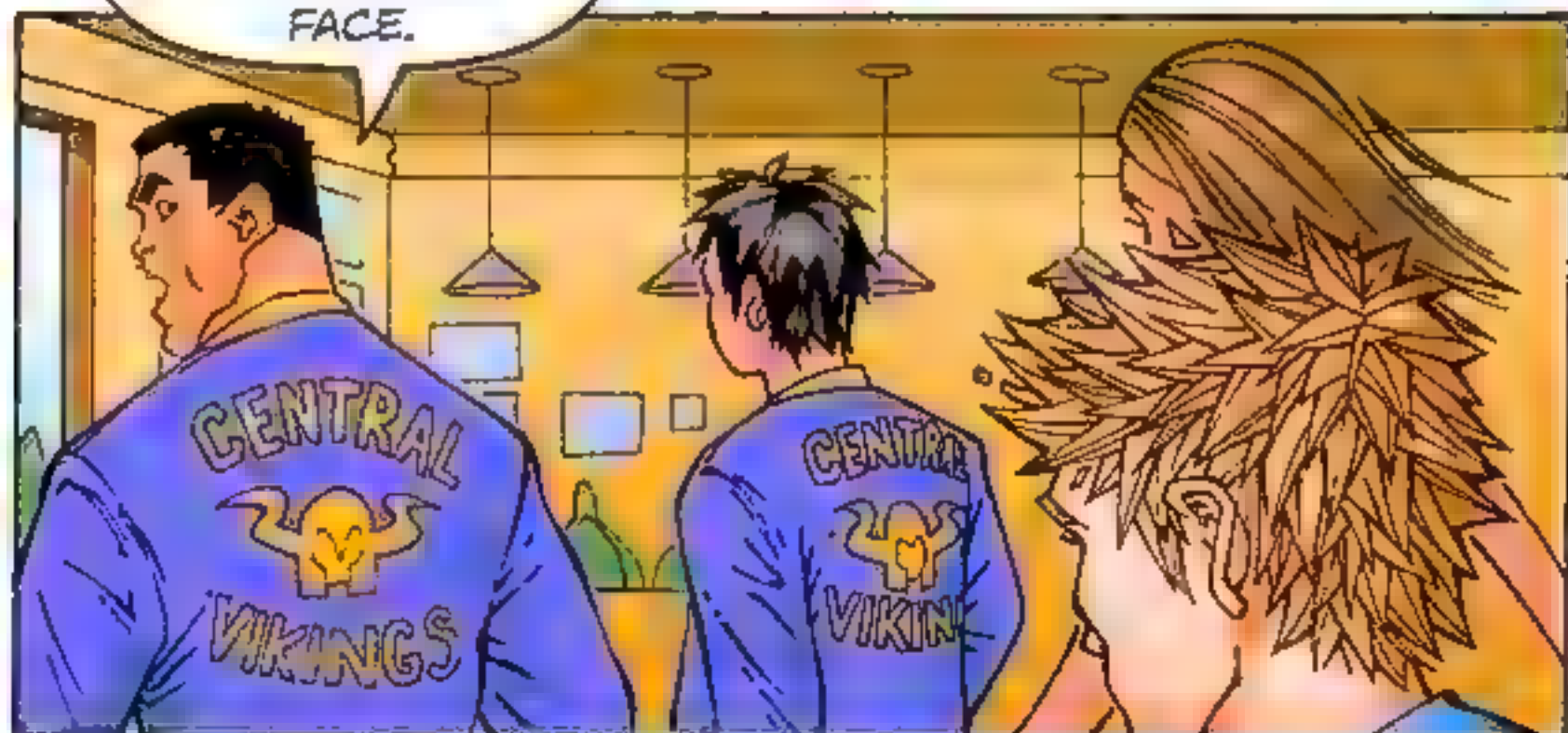
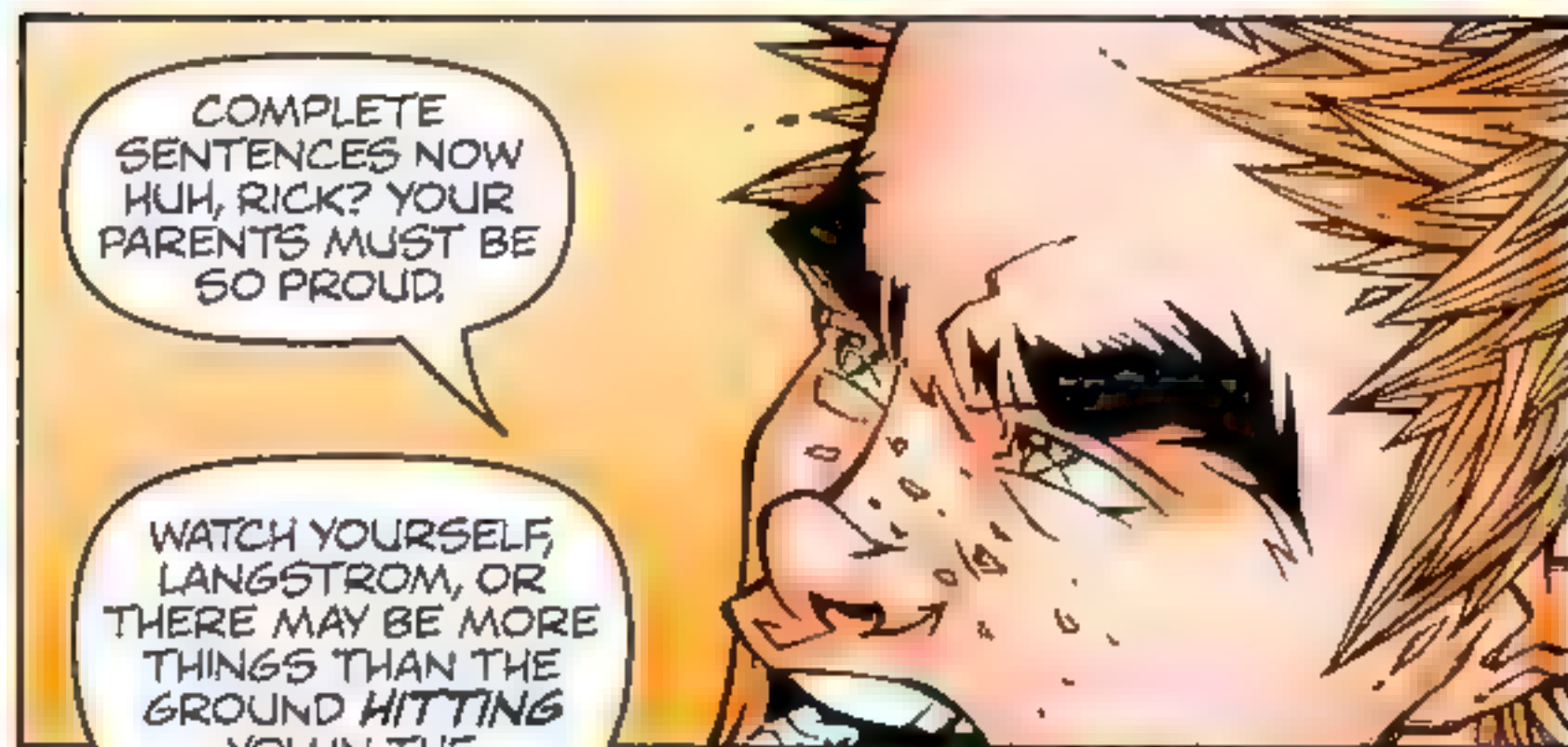
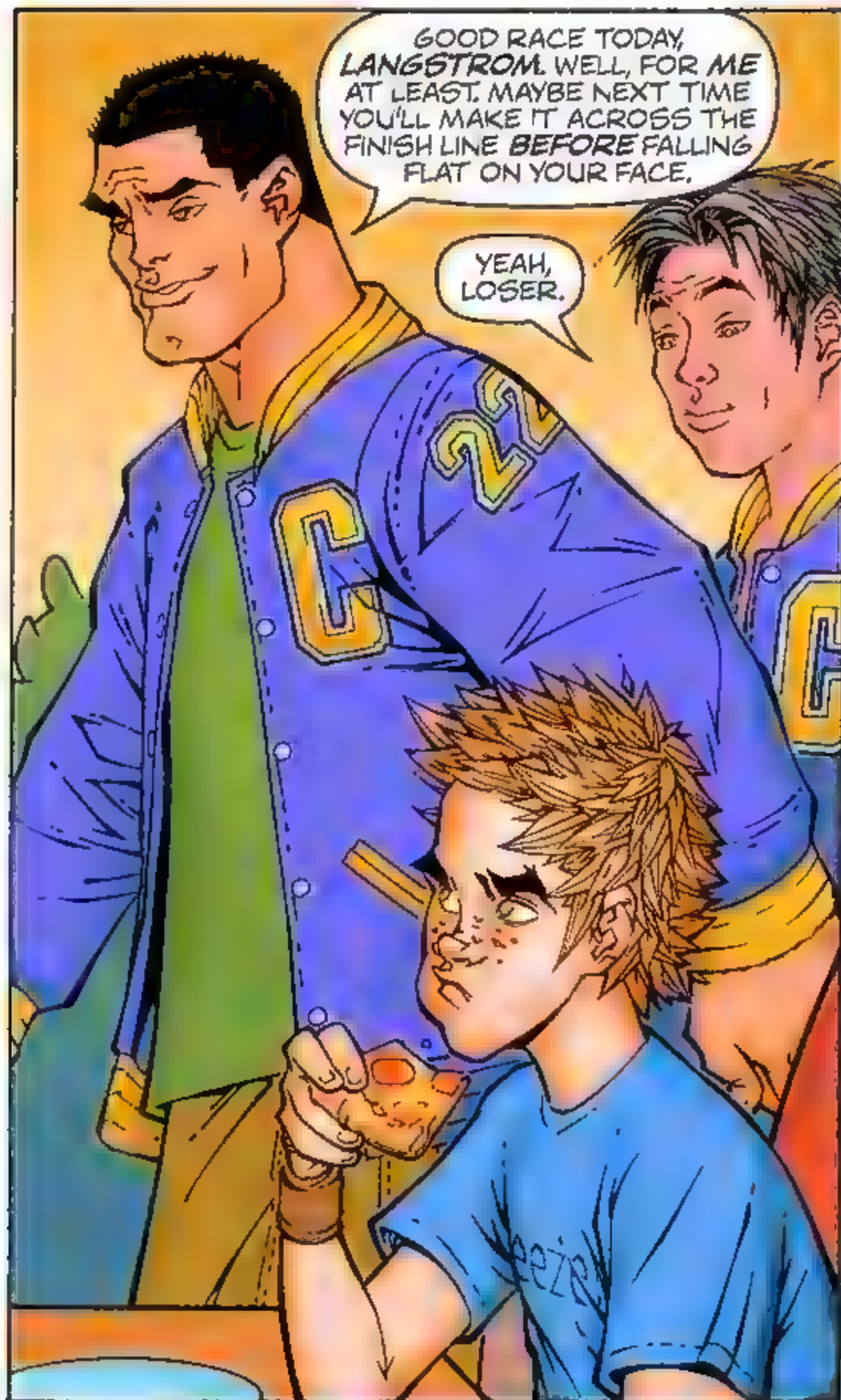
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT BREAKS AND ALL COMES CRASHING DOWN.

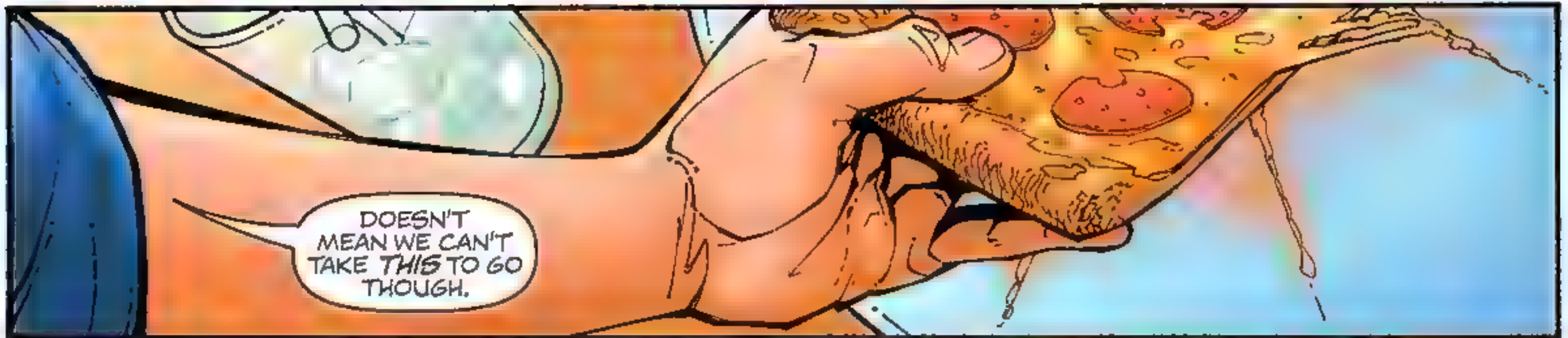
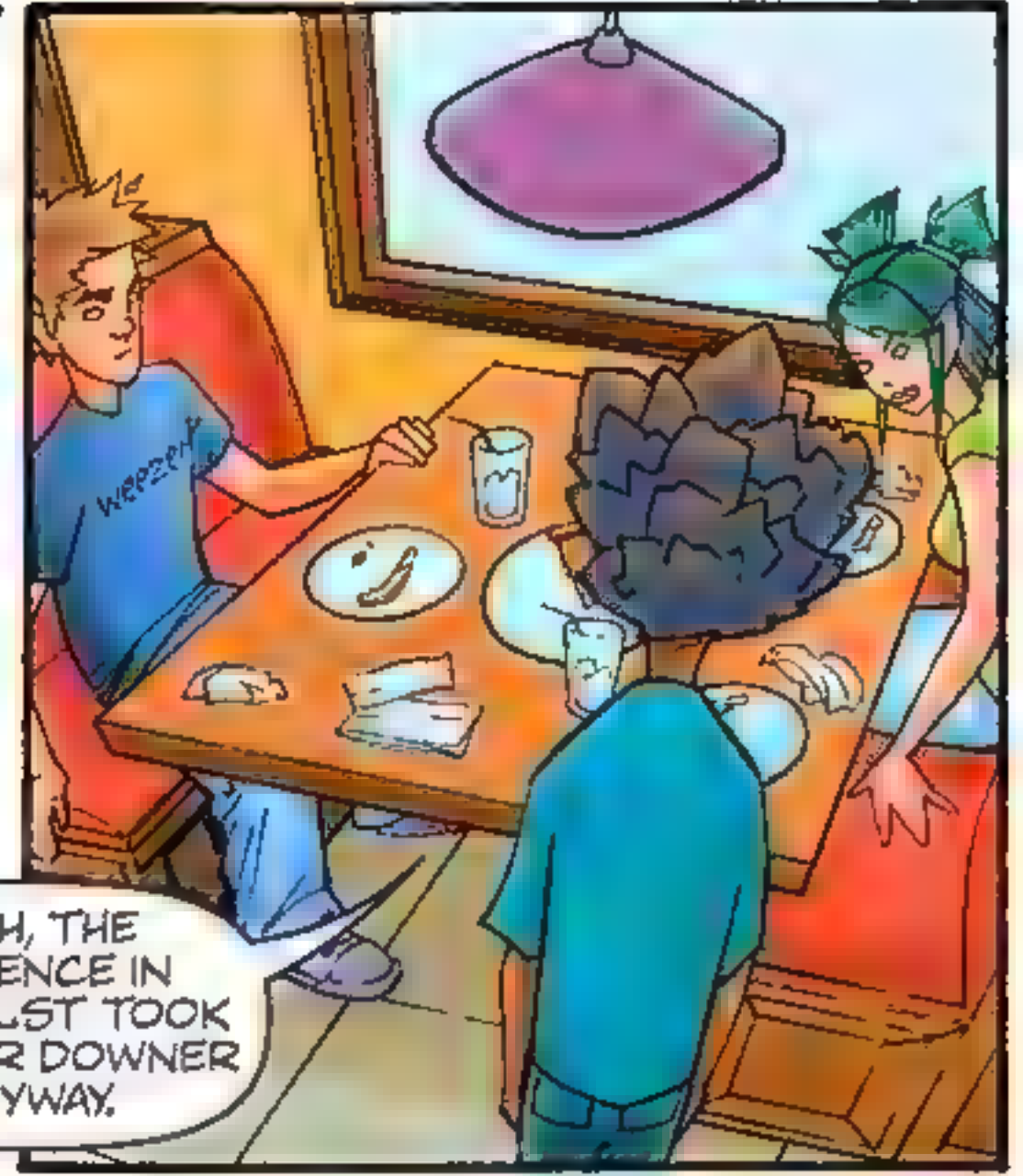
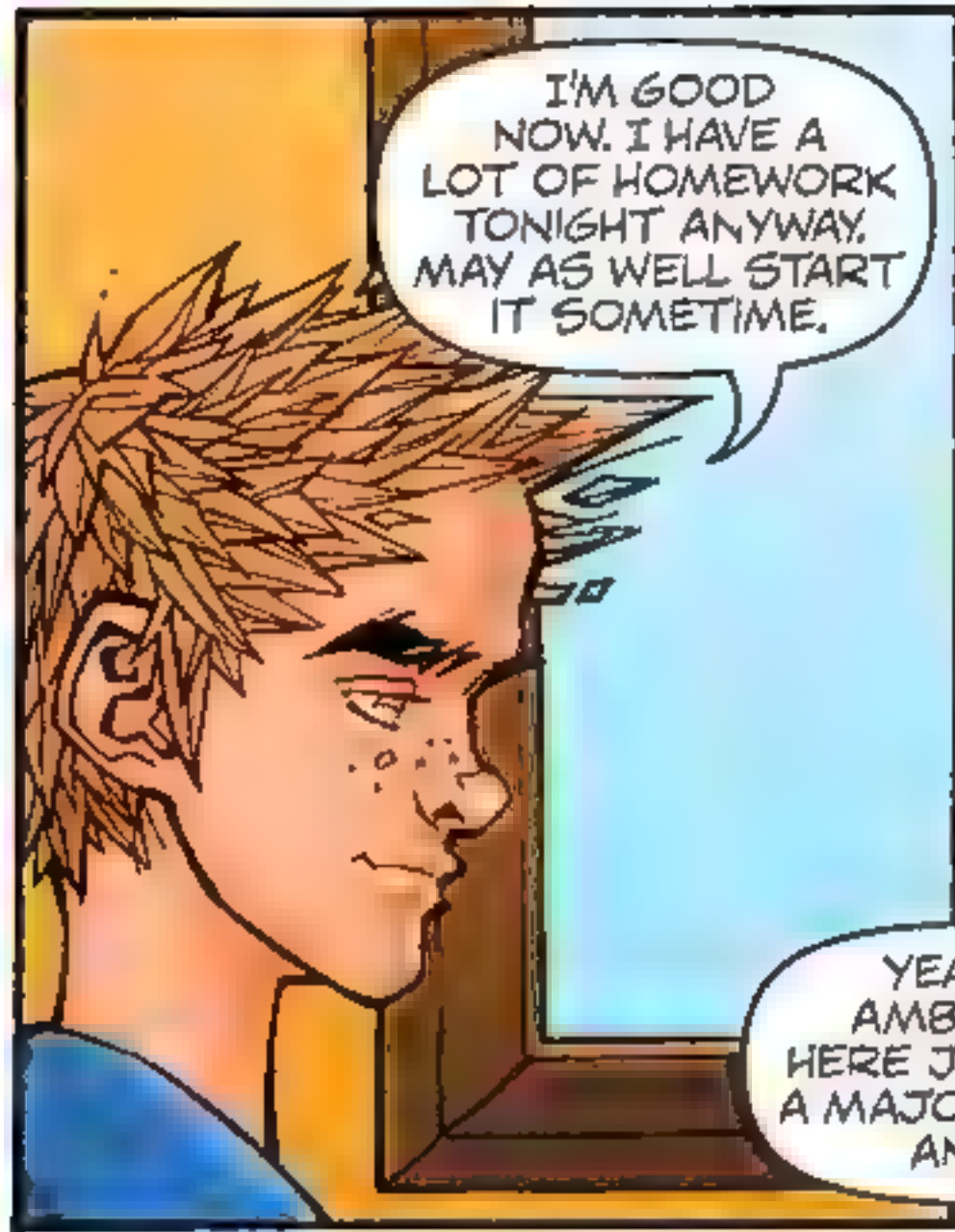
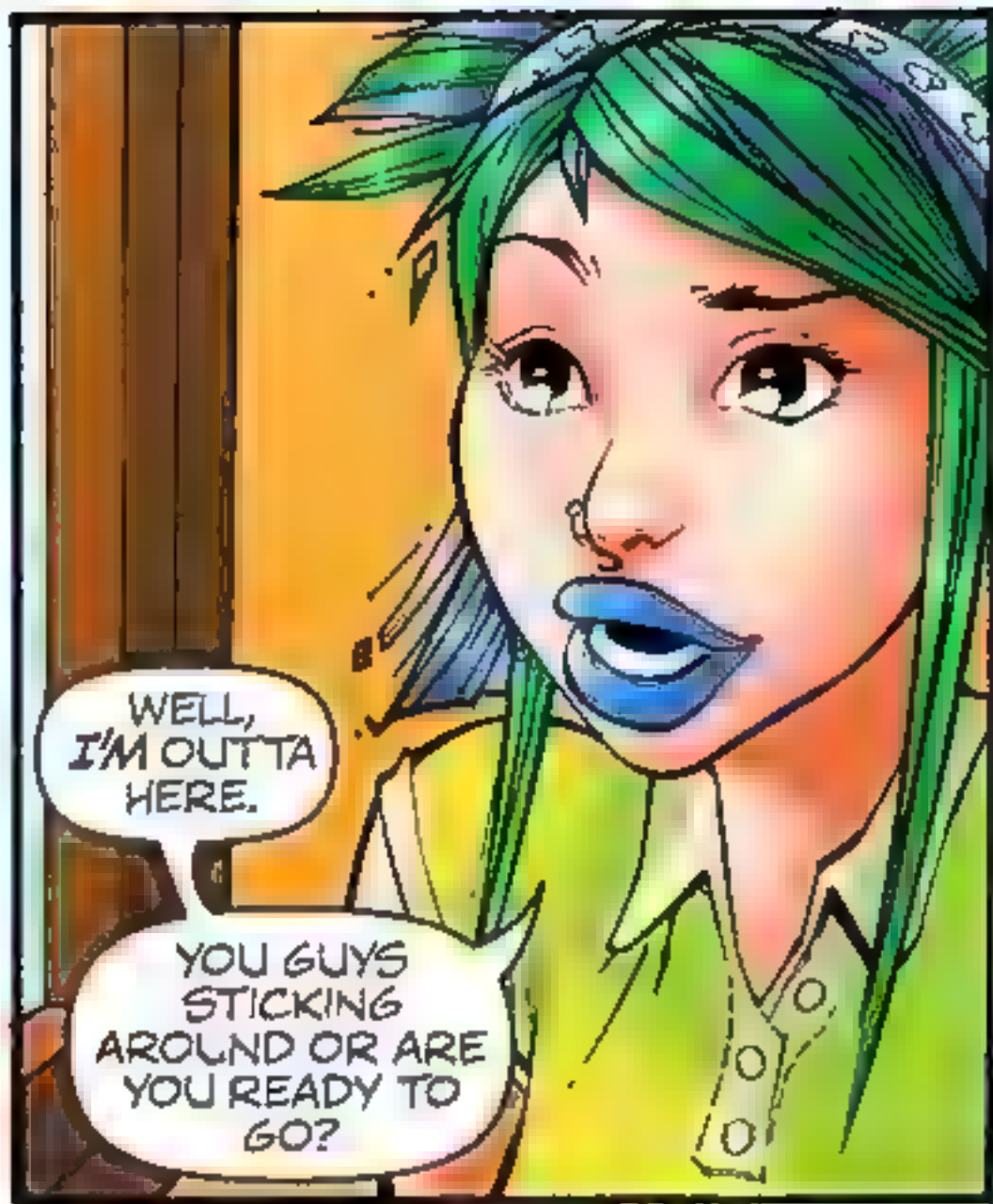
AND I'LL MAKE SURE I'M THE ONE TO PICK UP THE PIECES WHEN IT DOES.

YES, YOUR MAJESTY. ALL IS GOING AS PLANNED.









THAT EVENING.



YOU AIN'T
KIDDING KID, **THIS
SUCKS!!!** WE SHOULD
BE WATCHING **STRANDED
HOTTIES SURVIVAL!** THE
NATIVES DECIDE ON WHO
GETS ROASTED
TONIGHT.

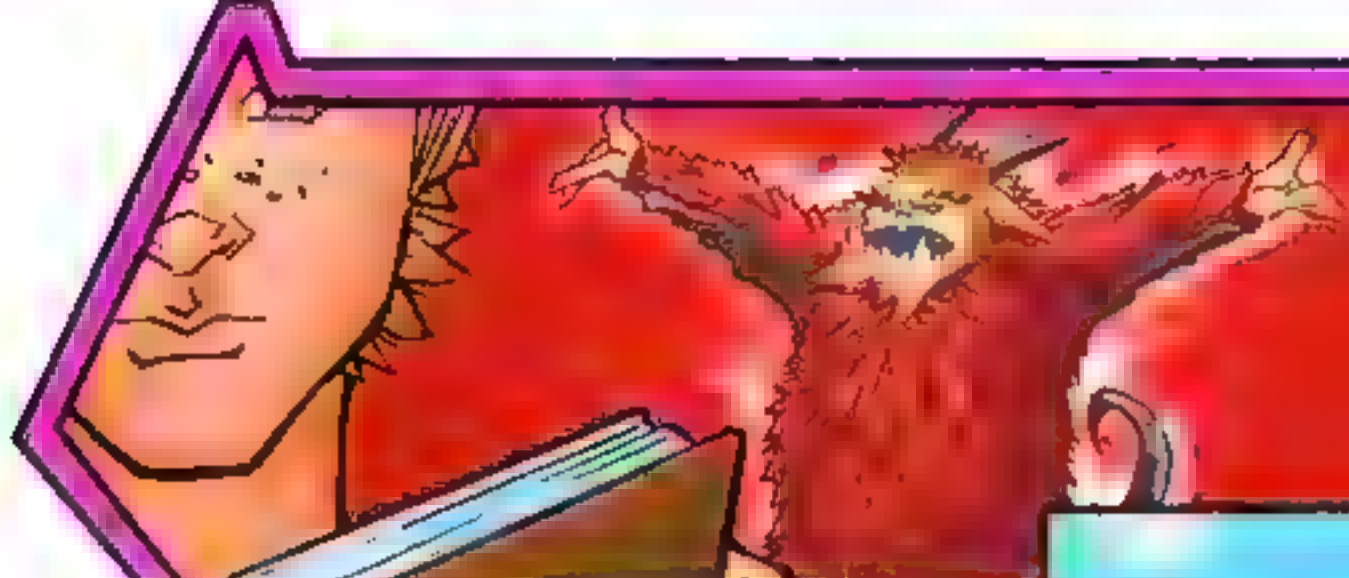
WHAT'S
THIS STUFF
MEAN? THIS
SUCKS.

NO NO NO,
DEVONSHIRE. WE NEED TO
STAY RESPONSIBLE AND FINISH
UP THIS BIOLOGY HOMEWORK
FIRST. DO NOT FORGET, WE HAVE
A PREVIEW TEST IN 3RD
PERIOD TOMORROW.

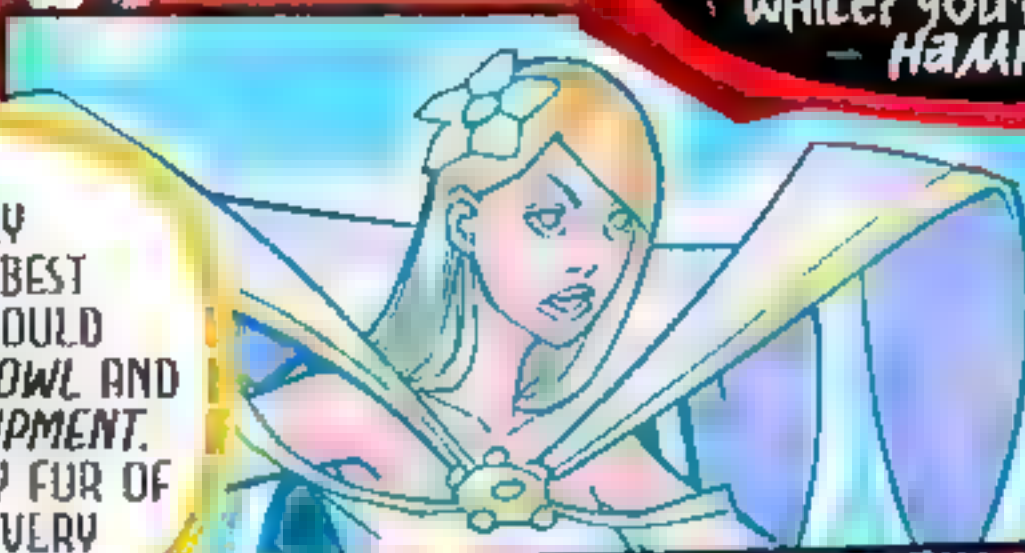
YOU'RE RIGHT! I
ALMOST FORGOT. THE BIG
GAME'S PROBABLY GOING INTO
THE **THIRD PERIOD** BY NOW!
IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL
MISS THE WHOLE THING.
LET'S GO!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE MISTER! WE **WILL NOT**
LEAVE THIS HOMEWORK INCOMPLETE. WE **WILL FINISH**
WHAT WE HAVE STARTED, REGARDLESS OF WHAT IS ON THE
TELEVISION. YOU NEED TO HELP THEO MORE, NOT HAMPER HIM
AND HIS DEVELOPMENT. RIGHT NOW IS A VERY CRUCIAL TIME IN
HIS LIFE. ESPECIALLY AFTER OUR LITTLE **INCIDENT** TODAY,
THEO COULD REALLY USE OUR SUPPORT.

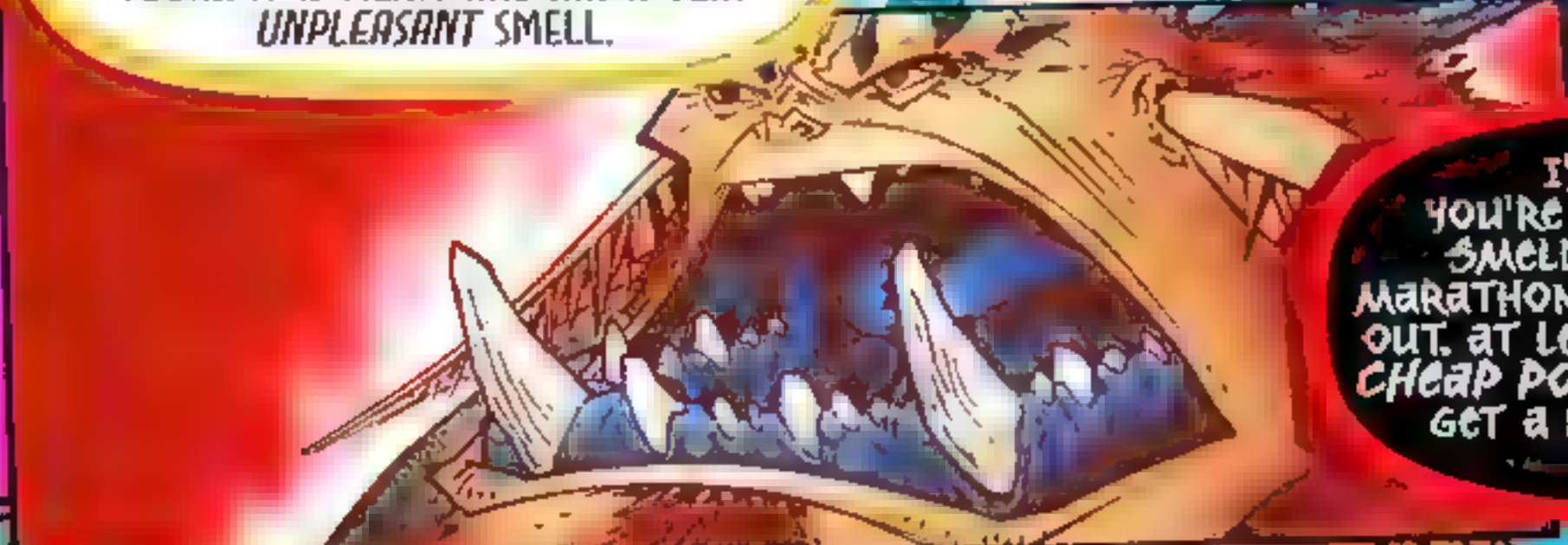
CONCENTRATE
THEO.



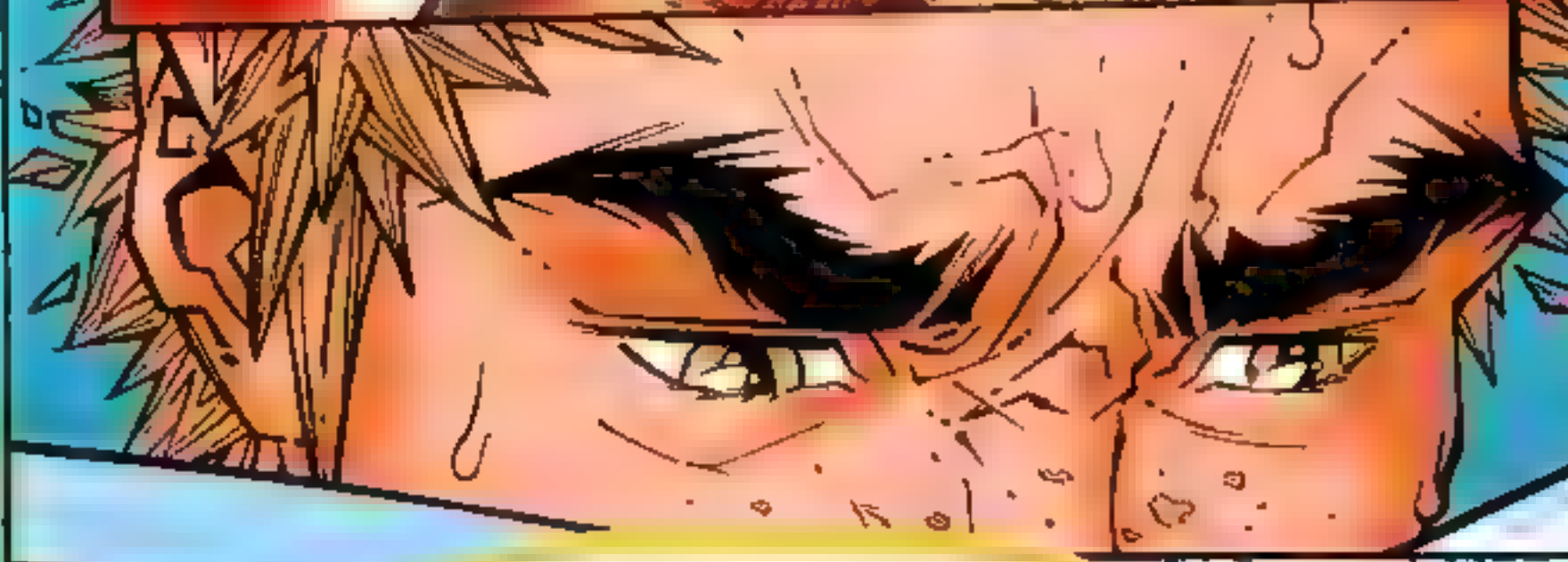
YOU REALLY WANT TO GO THERE AGAIN? FINE. I DO SUPPORT THE KID. EVEN MORE SO THAN YOU DO, 'MISS RELUCTANT TO TRY ANYTHING NEW.' WHY NOT LET HIM EXPERIENCE THINGS IN THE REAL WORLD LIKE OTHER KIDS ONCE IN A WHILE? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S **HAMPERING HIM.**



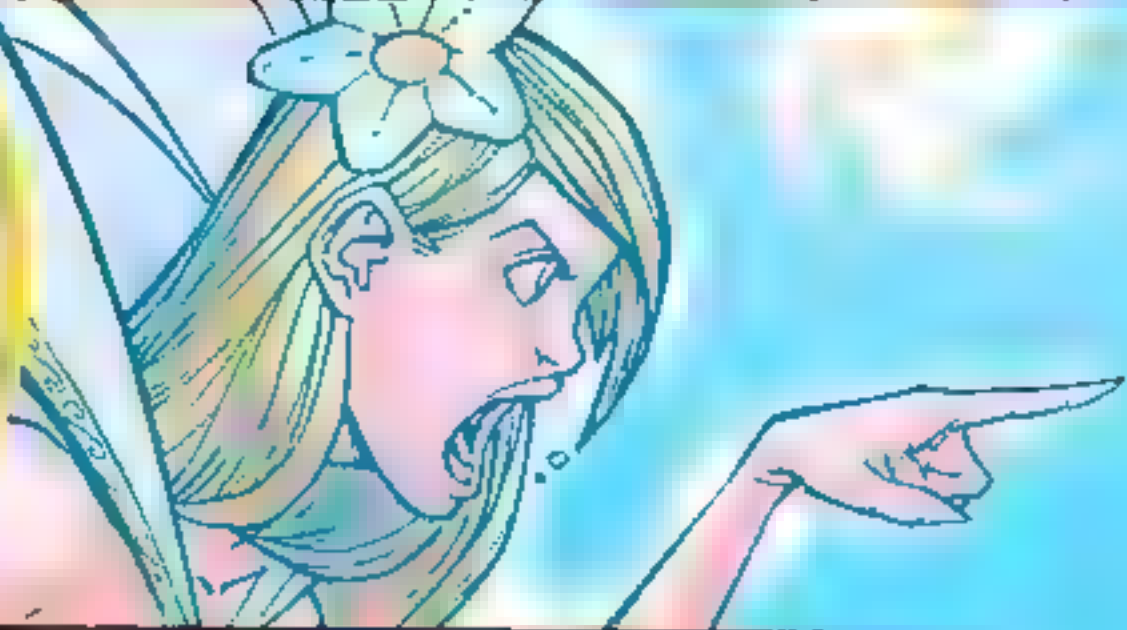
HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING? I AM CONSTANTLY LOOKING OUT FOR THEODORE'S BEST INTERESTS. WITHOUT ME YOU WOULD HAVE HIM EATING OUT OF A **DOG BOWL** AND GROOMING WITH **DIRTY YARD EQUIPMENT.** JUST LOOK AT ALL OF THAT **HAPPY FUR** OF YOURS. IT IS FILTHY AND HAS A VERY **UNPLEASANT SMELL.**



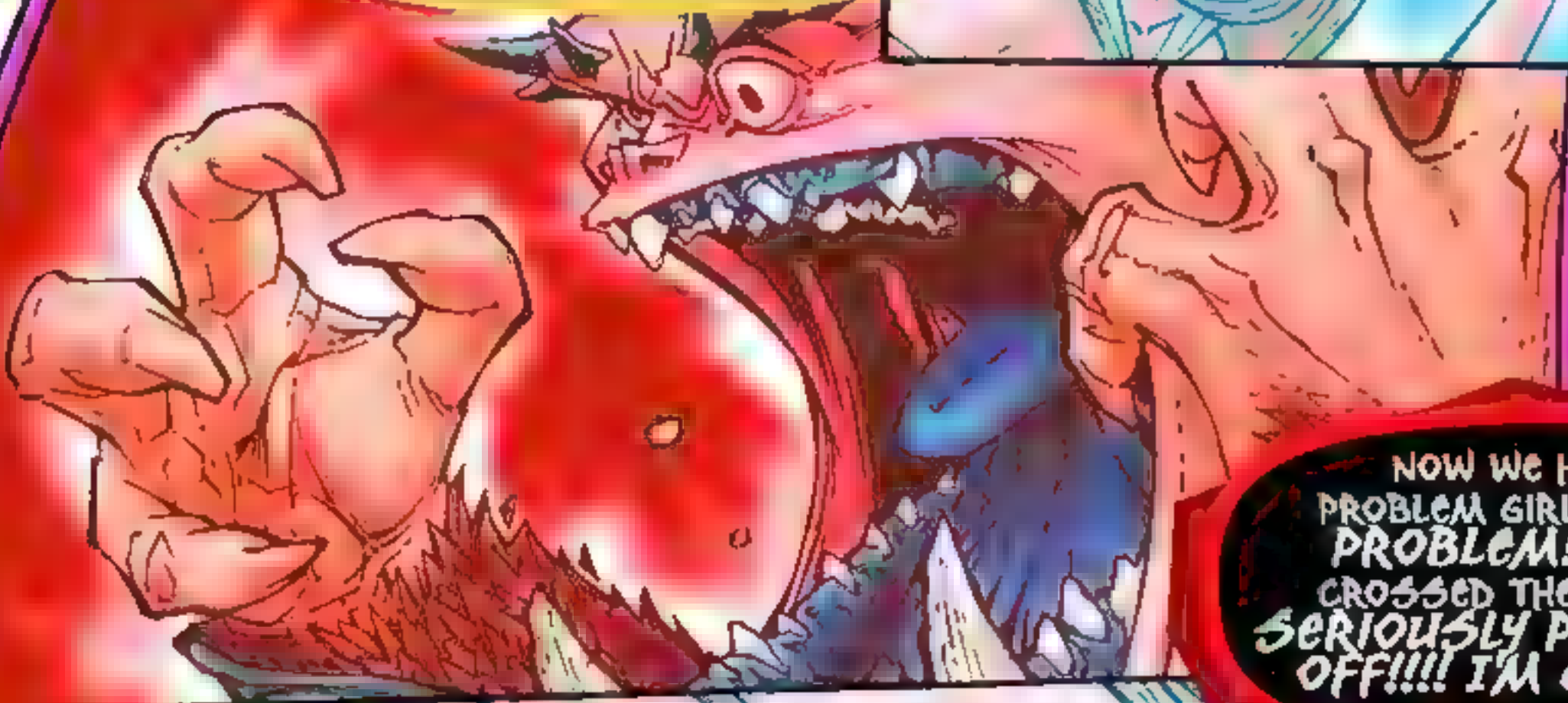
I'M **SMELLY?!** YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT I'M **SMELLY?** WE RAN A FRICK'N MARATHON TODAY! I'M STILL AIRING OUT. AT LEAST I DON'T STINK LIKE **CHEAP POTPOURRI** ALL DAY LONG. GET A NEW FRAGRANCE, WHY DON'TCHA?



C'MON, C'MON.



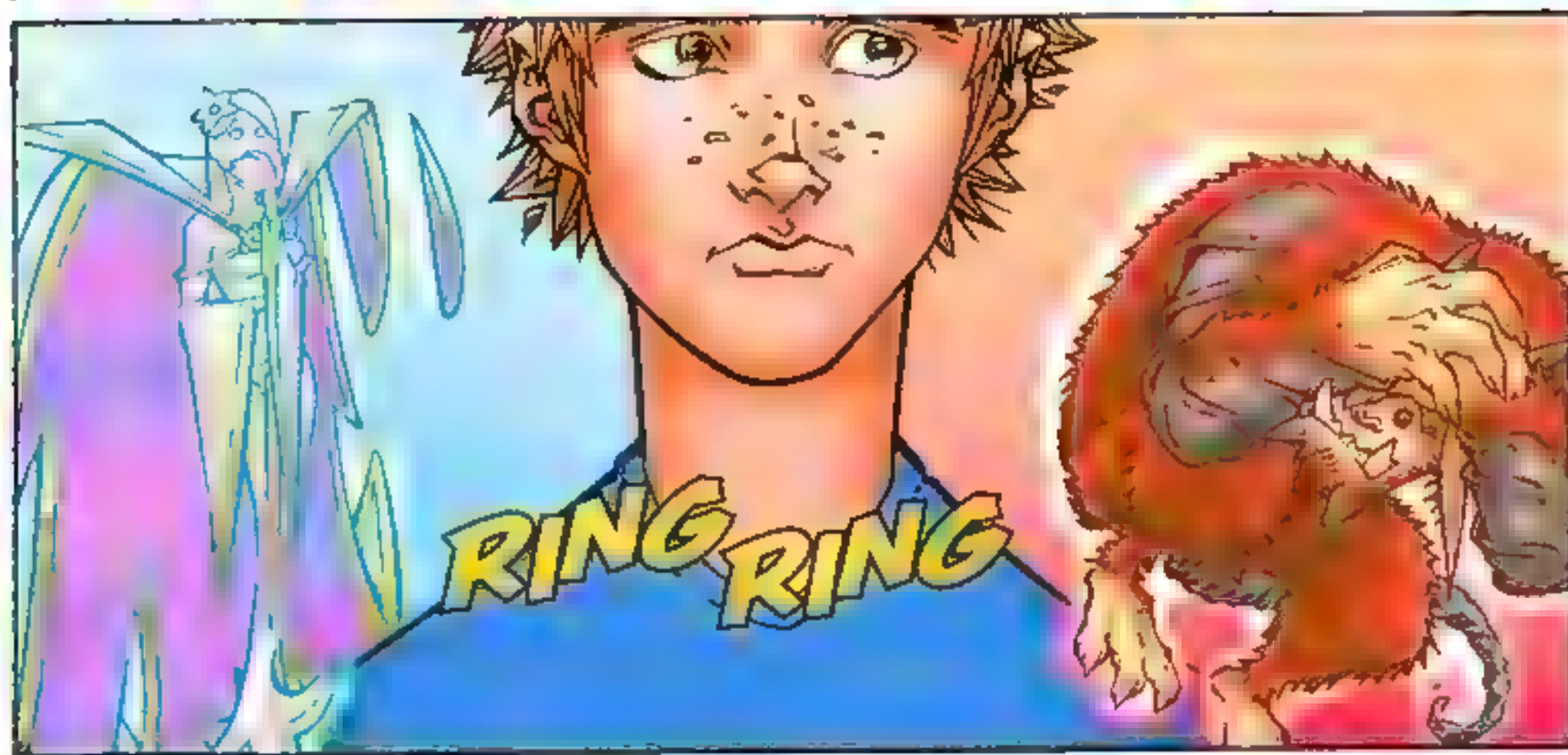
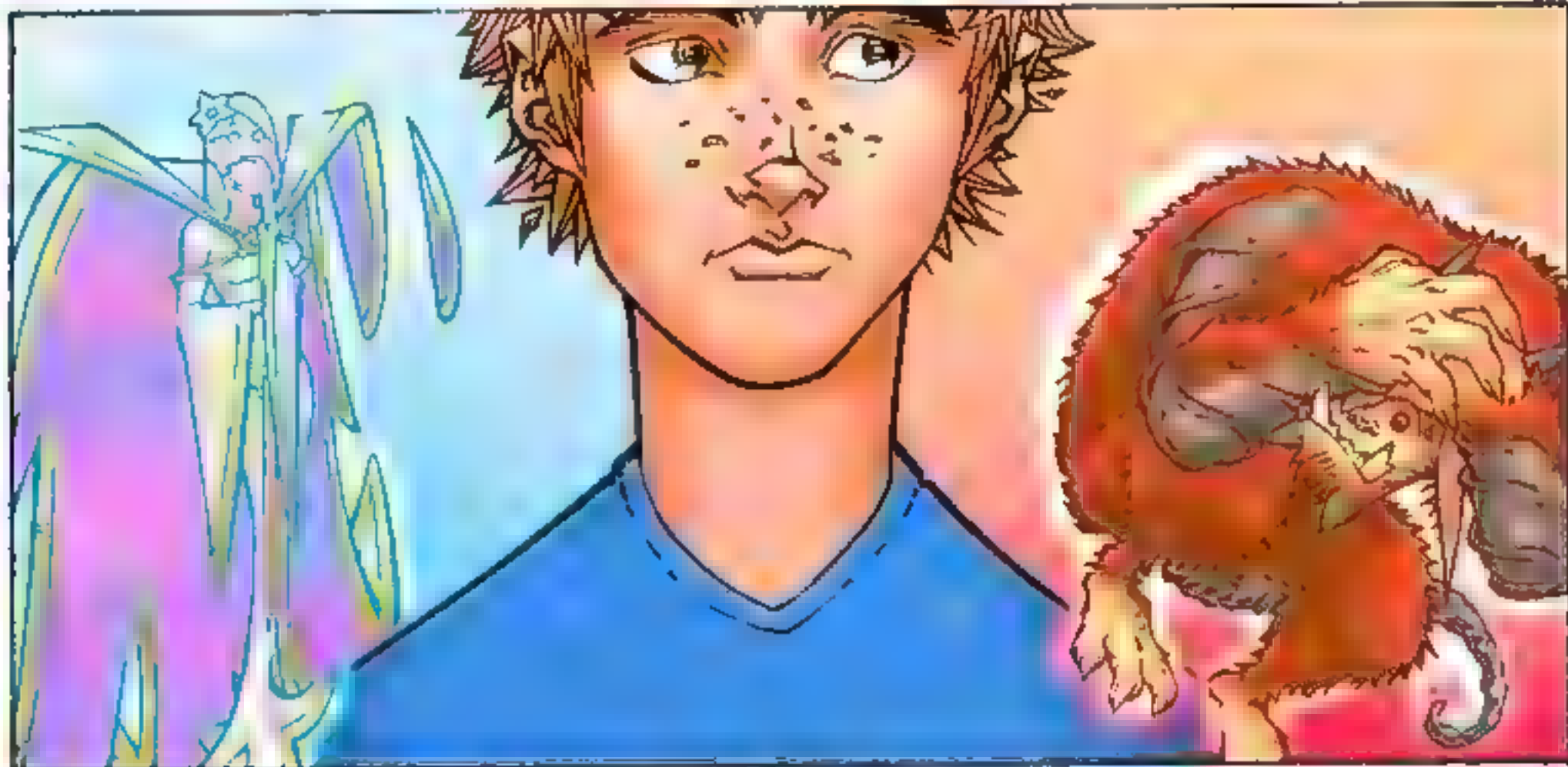
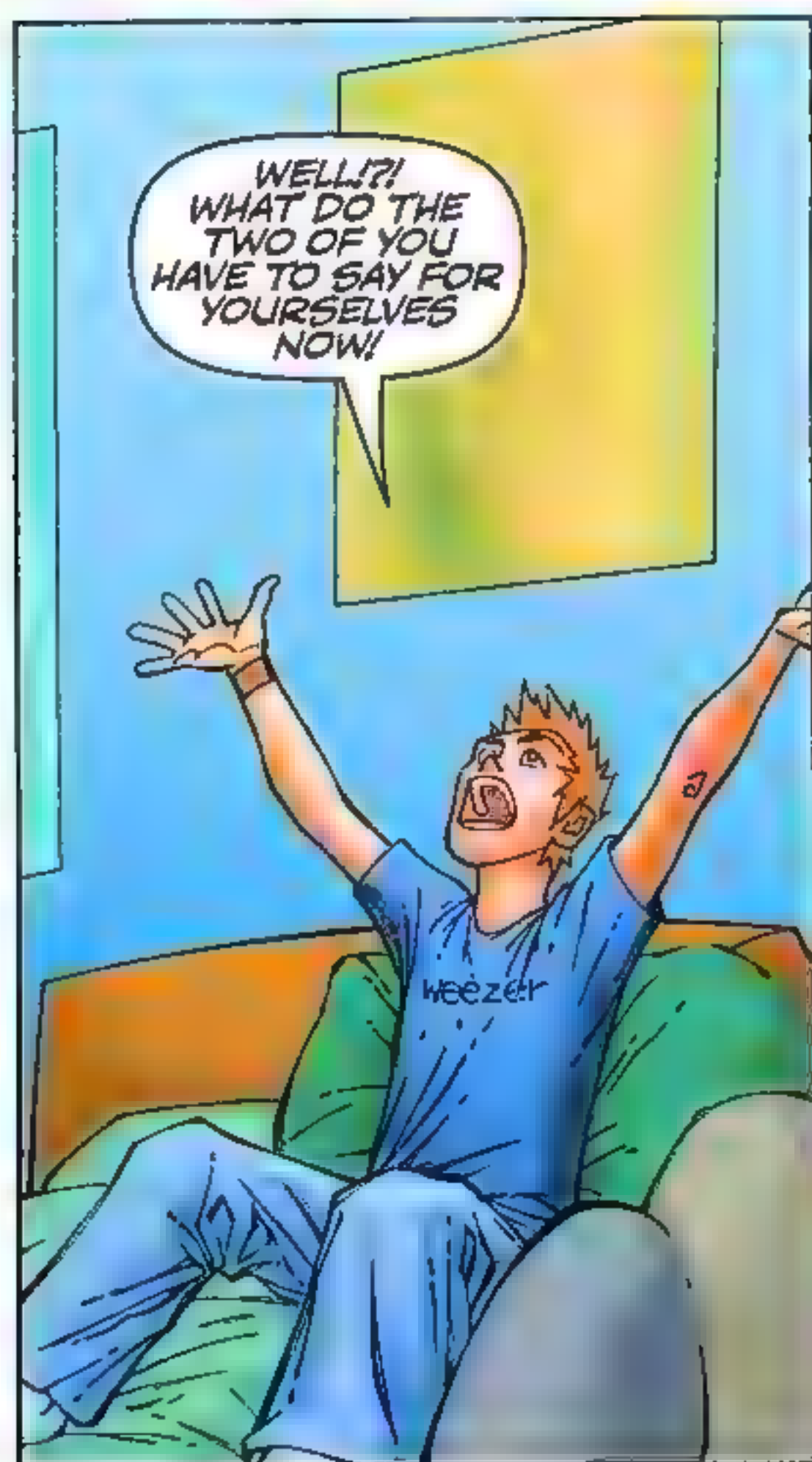
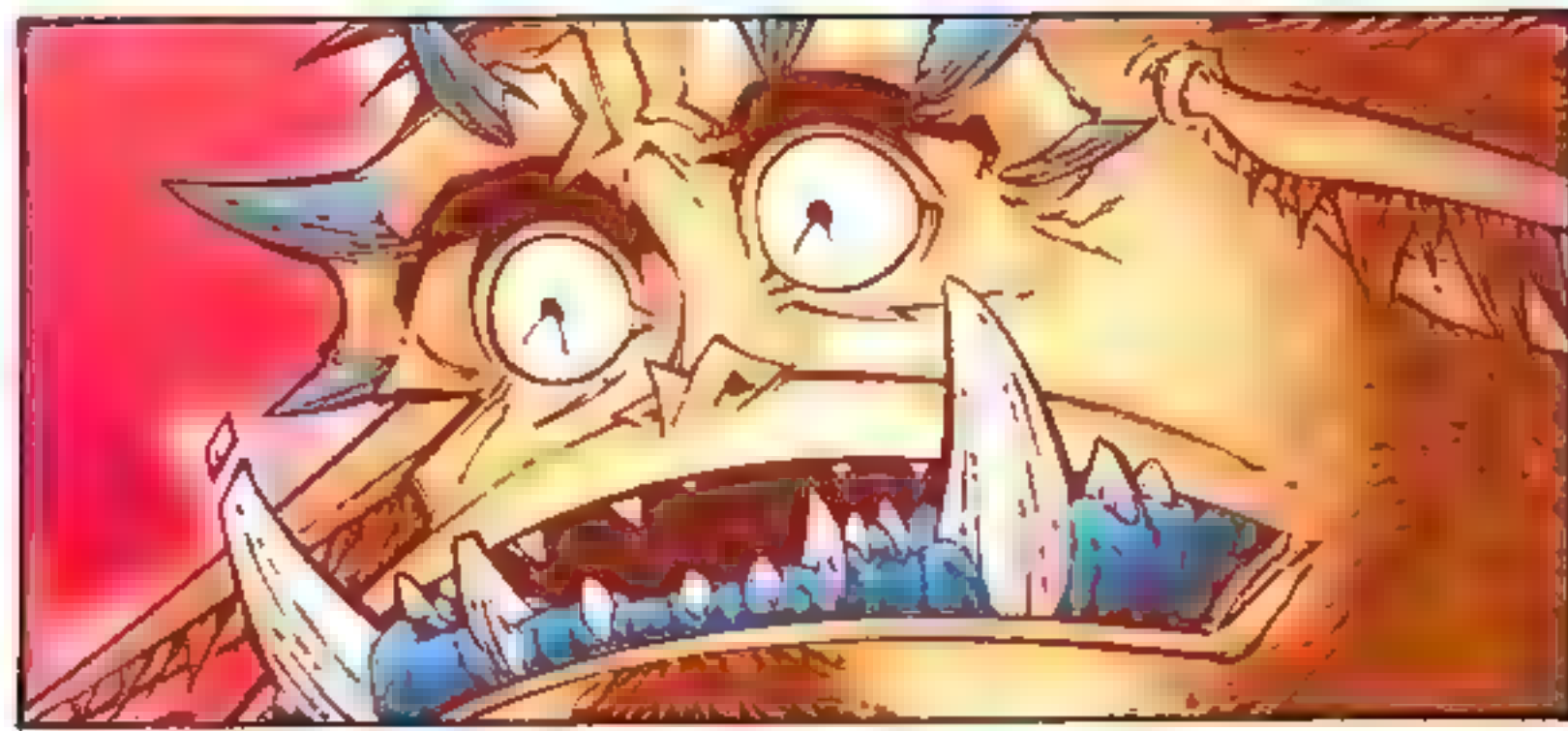
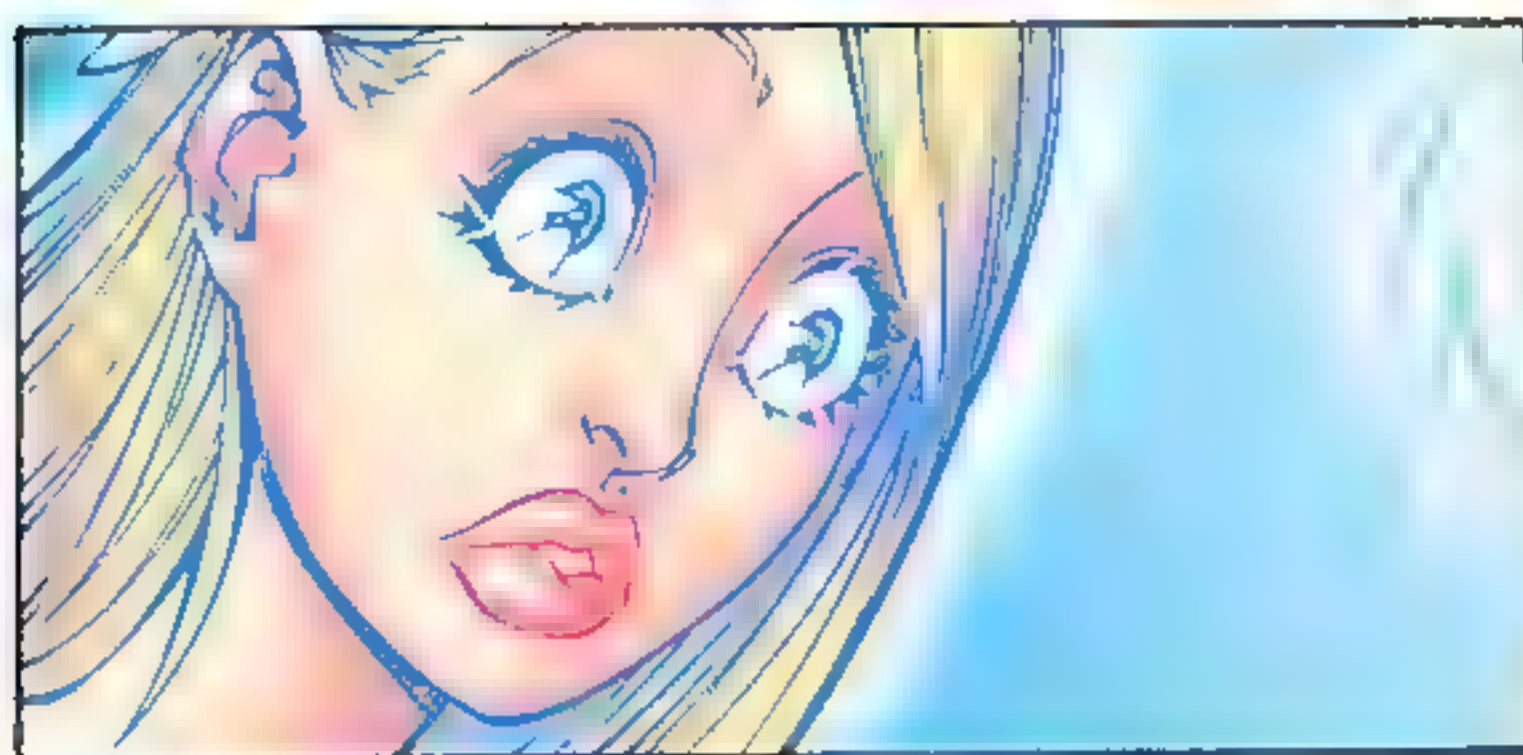
WHY YOU INCONSIDERATE DAF! ALL OF THE EFFORT I PUT IN TO ENSURE OUR RELATIONSHIP ENDURES FOR THEO... AND YOU TREAT ME LIKE THIS? I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY **ELDER NEFARIANS** ARE NOTHING BUT UNTRUSTWORTHY, WRETCHED CREATURES. AND YOU, DEAR DEVONSHIRE, ARE THE **WORST** OF THE BUNCH!

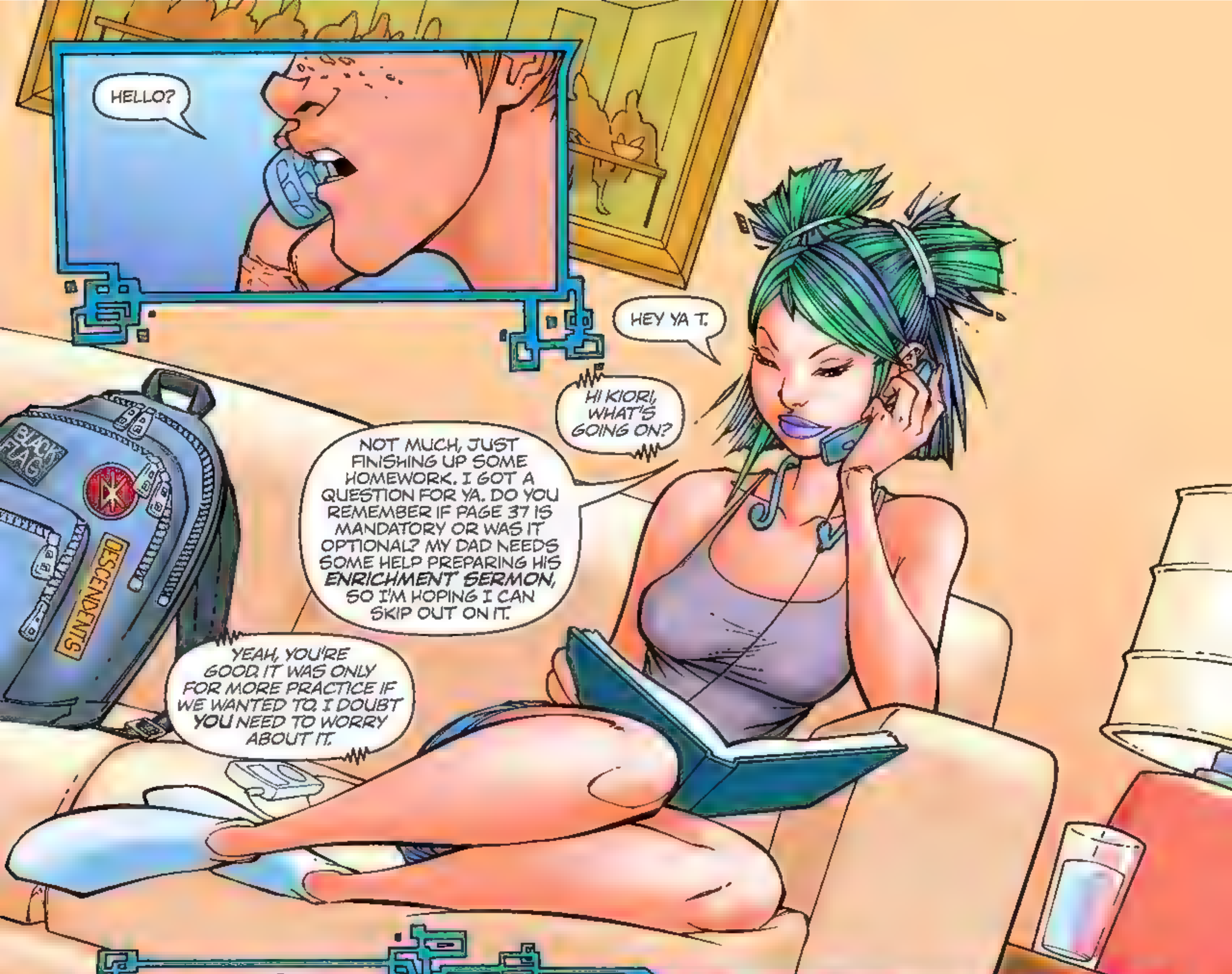


NOW WE HAVE A PROBLEM GIRLIE, A **BIG PROBLEM!!!** YOU'VE CROSSED THE LINE AND **SERIOUSLY PISSED ME OFF!!!!** I'M GONNA--



SPARE ME YOUR EMPTY THREATS! YOU WILL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT BECAUSE--





HELLO?

HEY YA T.

HI KIORI,
WHAT'S
GOING ON?

NOT MUCH, JUST
FINISHING UP SOME
HOMEWORK. I GOT A
QUESTION FOR YA. DO YOU
REMEMBER IF PAGE 37 IS
MANDATORY OR WAS IT
OPTIONAL? MY DAD NEEDS
SOME HELP PREPARING HIS
ENRICHMENT SERMON,
SO I'M HOPING I CAN
SKIP OUT ON IT.

YEAH, YOU'RE
GOOD. IT WAS ONLY
FOR MORE PRACTICE IF
WE WANTED TO. I DOUBT
YOU NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT IT.

VERY COOL,
I'M DONE THEN.
HOW 'BOUT
YOU?

ALMOST. I'VE
HAD A FEW, UH,
DISTRACTIONS.

NICE. I THINK
I'D RATHER NOT
KNOW. SEE YA
TOMORROW.

YUP. LATER.

ALL DONE
WITH YOUR
SCHOOLWORK,
HUN?

SURE AM.
READY TO HELP
YOU OUT, WHENEVER
YOU ARE.

GREAT. IT
SHOULDN'T TAKE
TOO LONG, BUT HELPING
TO PROVIDE FOR THOSE IN
NEED, THE AMOUNT OF
REQUIRED TIME REALLY
SHOULDN'T MATTER.
WOULDN'T YOU
AGREE?

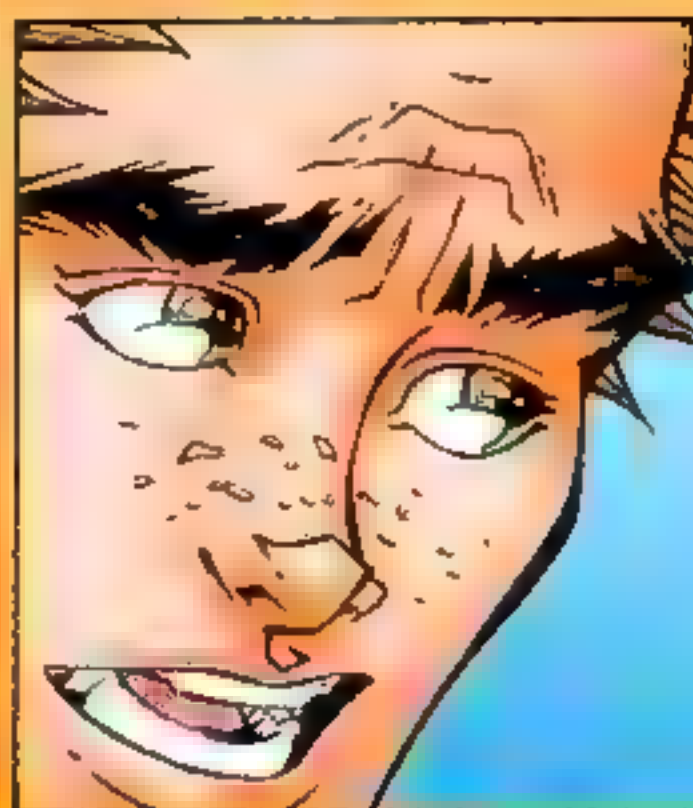
YOU'RE A
GOOD MAN DAD.
I'M HAPPY TO
HELP.

THAT'S MY
GIRL. THAT'S
MY GIRL.

THE NEXT DAY.

NAH, I DIDN'T
GET TO SEE IT.
I HAD SOME
TROUBLE WITH MY
HOMEWORK.

THE CHICK
THEY ROASTED
WAS BANGING! I'M
TELLING YA BRO, YOU
NEED TO GET TIVO.
IT'LL CHANGE YOUR
LIFE. SERIOUSLY.



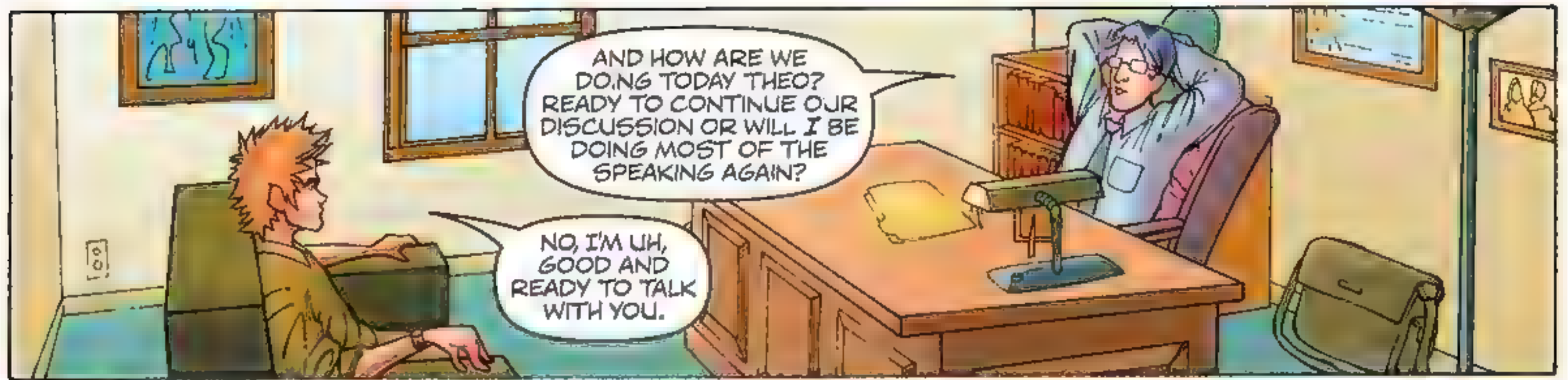
YEAH,
CHANGE ME INTO
A FULL TIME COUCH
POTATO. I NEED TO
GET OUT MORE
AS IT IS.

AH, YOU'LL BE
FINE. JUST LOOK
AT ME, I'M STILL LEAN
AND MEAN FOR THE
LADIES. I'LL SEE YA
LATER. GOOD LUCK
WITH BROCKTON.

THANKS.

BUT I HAVE A FEELING
TODAY'S MEETING IS
GOING TO GO A BIT
BETTER THAN USUAL.





AND HOW ARE WE DOING TODAY THEO? READY TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION OR WILL I BE DOING MOST OF THE SPEAKING AGAIN?

NO, I'M UH, GOOD AND READY TO TALK WITH YOU.

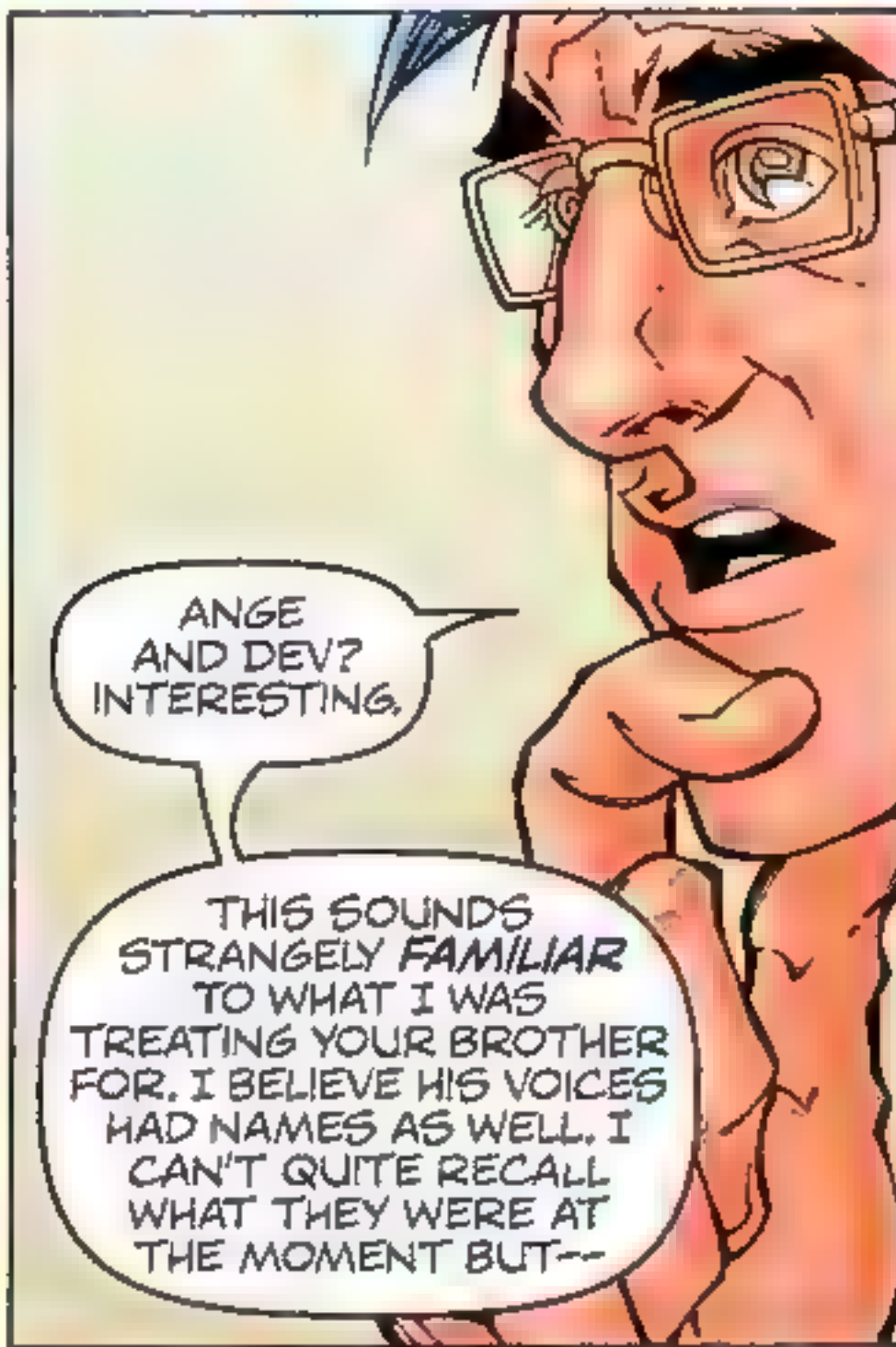


THAT'S GREAT. I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN YOUR PAST, BUT HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE ABLE TO WORK THROUGH THEM TOGETHER.

TO BEGIN WITH, WE LEFT OFF IN OUR LAST MEETING WITH YOU TELLING ME ABOUT SOME VOICES YOU'VE BEEN HEARING IN YOUR HEAD. WOULD YOU CARE TO ELABORATE?



THEIR NAMES ARE ANGE AND DEV, BUT I HAVEN'T REALLY HEARD ANYTHING FROM THEM SINCE LAST NIGHT WHEN WE... GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT. I THINK THEY'RE MAD RIGHT NOW OR SOMETHING.



ANGE AND DEV? INTERESTING.

THIS SOUNDS STRANGELY FAMILIAR TO WHAT I WAS TREATING YOUR BROTHER FOR. I BELIEVE HIS VOICES HAD NAMES AS WELL. I CAN'T QUITE RECALL WHAT THEY WERE AT THE MOMENT BUT--



HE WAS HEARING VOICES TOO?!

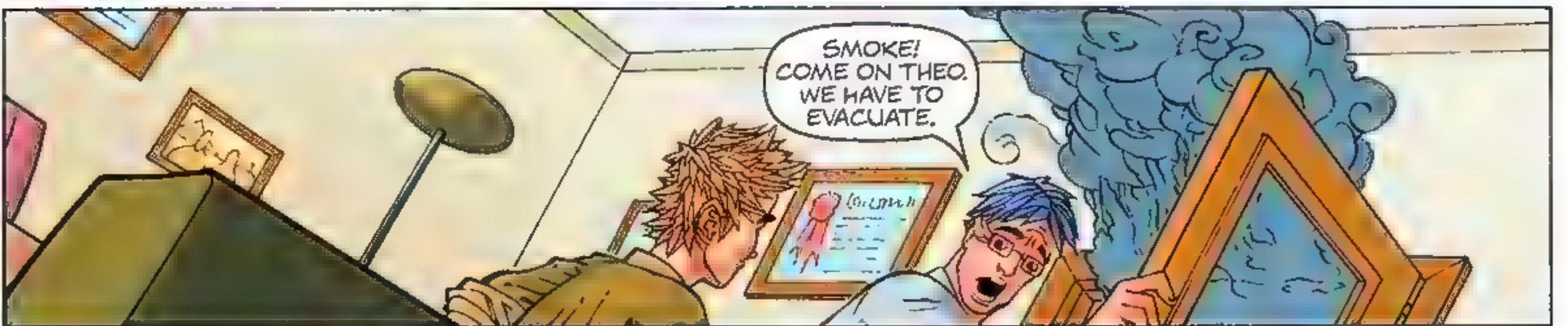
MY PARENTS, THEY NEVER REALLY LISTENED AND THERE'S SO MUCH I'VE BEEN HOLDING IN THAT I WANT TO TALK ABOUT. RIGHT BEFORE HE--

WHEE WHEE

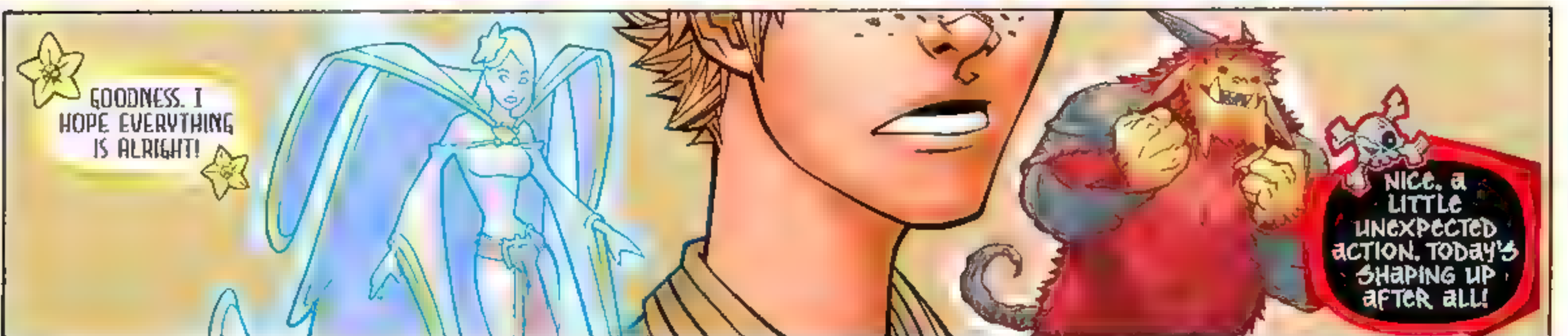


THE FIRE ALARM? I WASN'T NOTIFIED OF ANY DRILLS TODAY. HOLD THAT THOUGHT A MOMENT.

WHEE WHEE

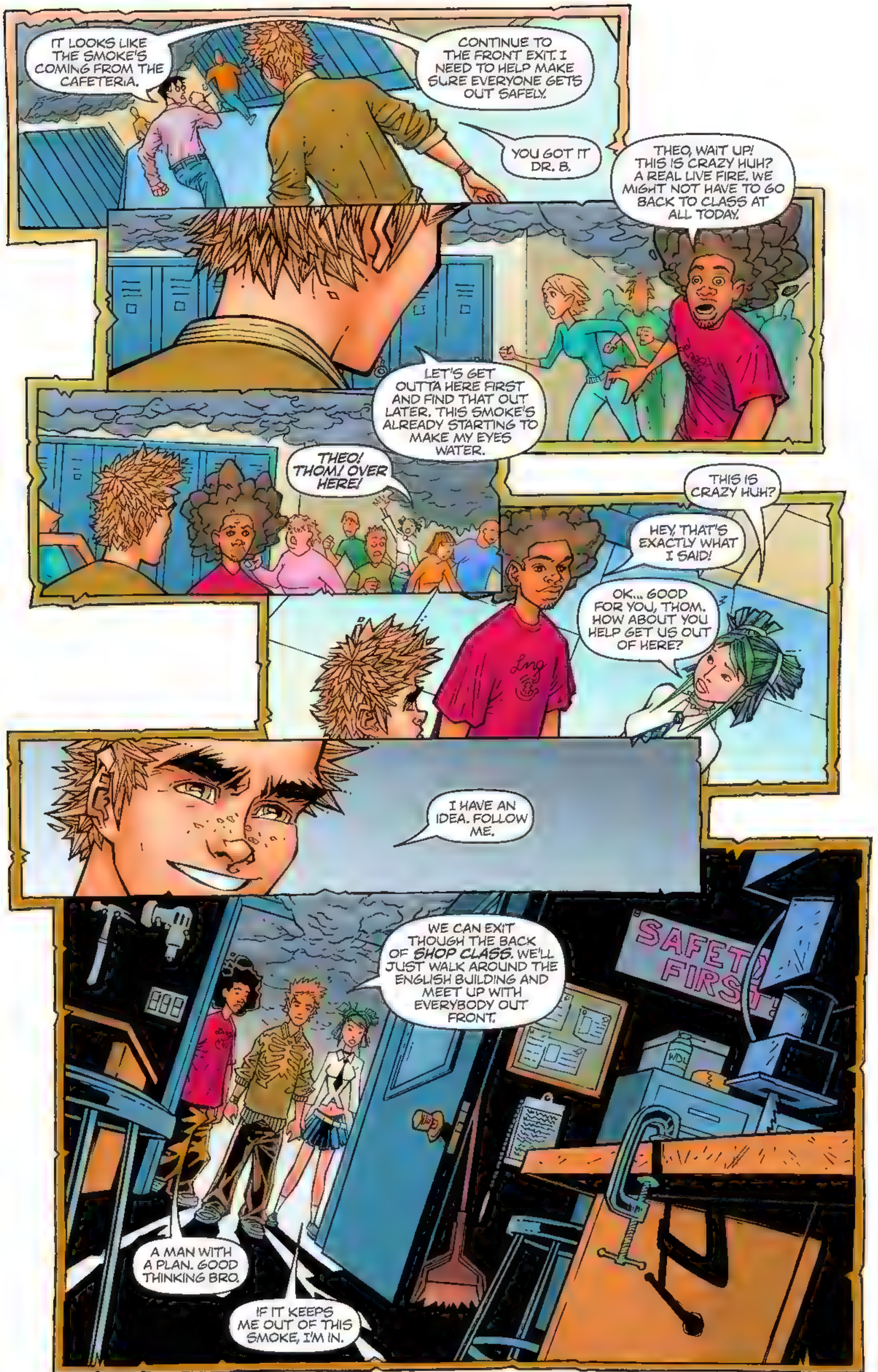


SMOKE! COME ON THEO. WE HAVE TO EVACUATE.



GOODNESS. I HOPE EVERYTHING IS ALRIGHT!

NICE. A LITTLE UNEXPECTED ACTION. TODAY'S SHAPING UP AFTER ALL!



IT LOOKS LIKE THE SMOKE'S COMING FROM THE CAFETERIA.

CONTINUE TO THE FRONT EXIT. I NEED TO HELP MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS OUT SAFELY.

YOU GOT IT DR. B.

THEO, WAIT UP! THIS IS CRAZY HUH? A REAL LIVE FIRE. WE MIGHT NOT HAVE TO GO BACK TO CLASS AT ALL TODAY.

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE FIRST AND FIND THAT OUT LATER. THIS SMOKE'S ALREADY STARTING TO MAKE MY EYES WATER.

THEO! THOM! OVER HERE!

THIS IS CRAZY HUH?

HEY, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I SAID!

OK... GOOD FOR YOU, THOM. HOW ABOUT YOU HELP GET US OUT OF HERE?

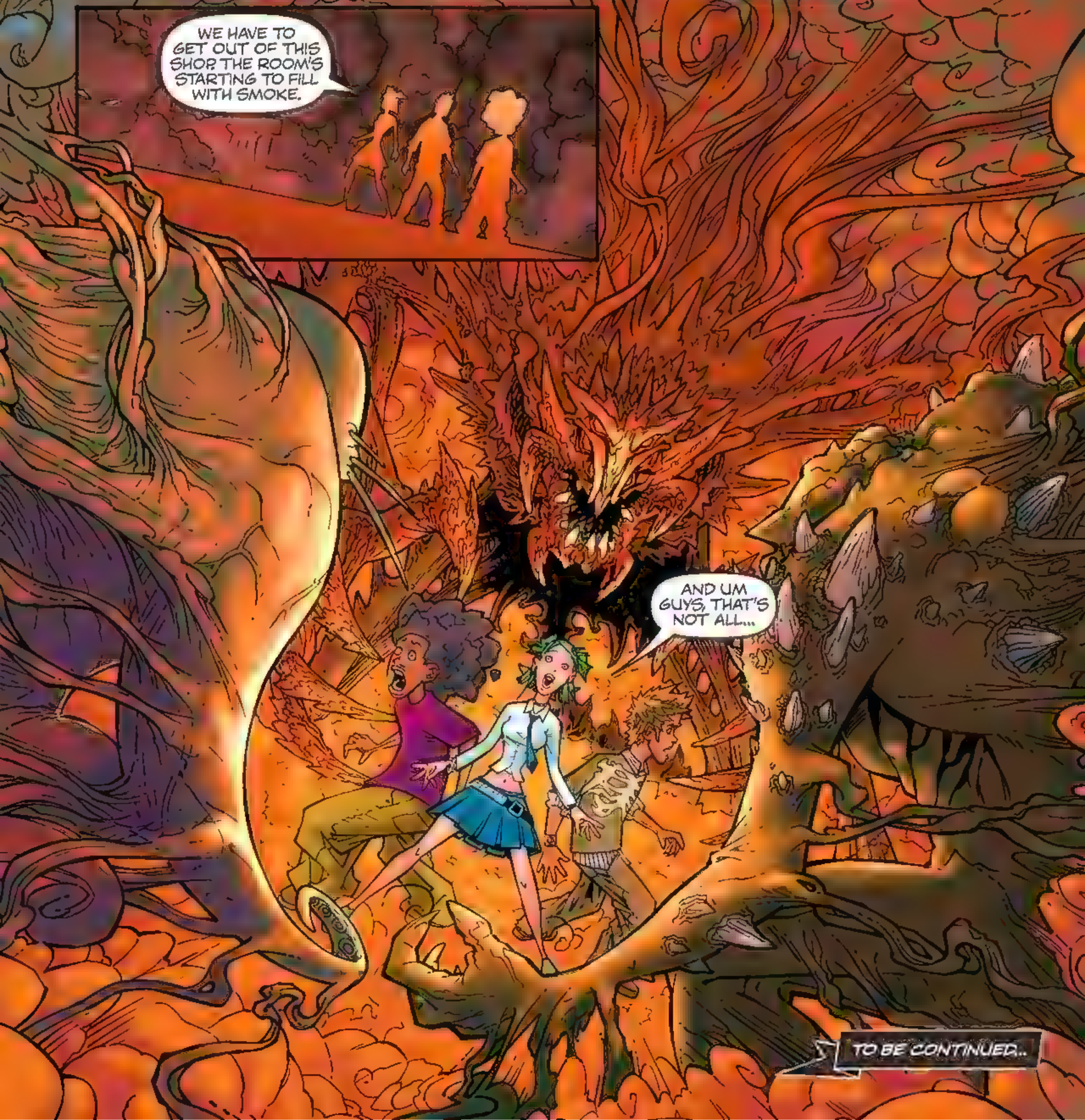
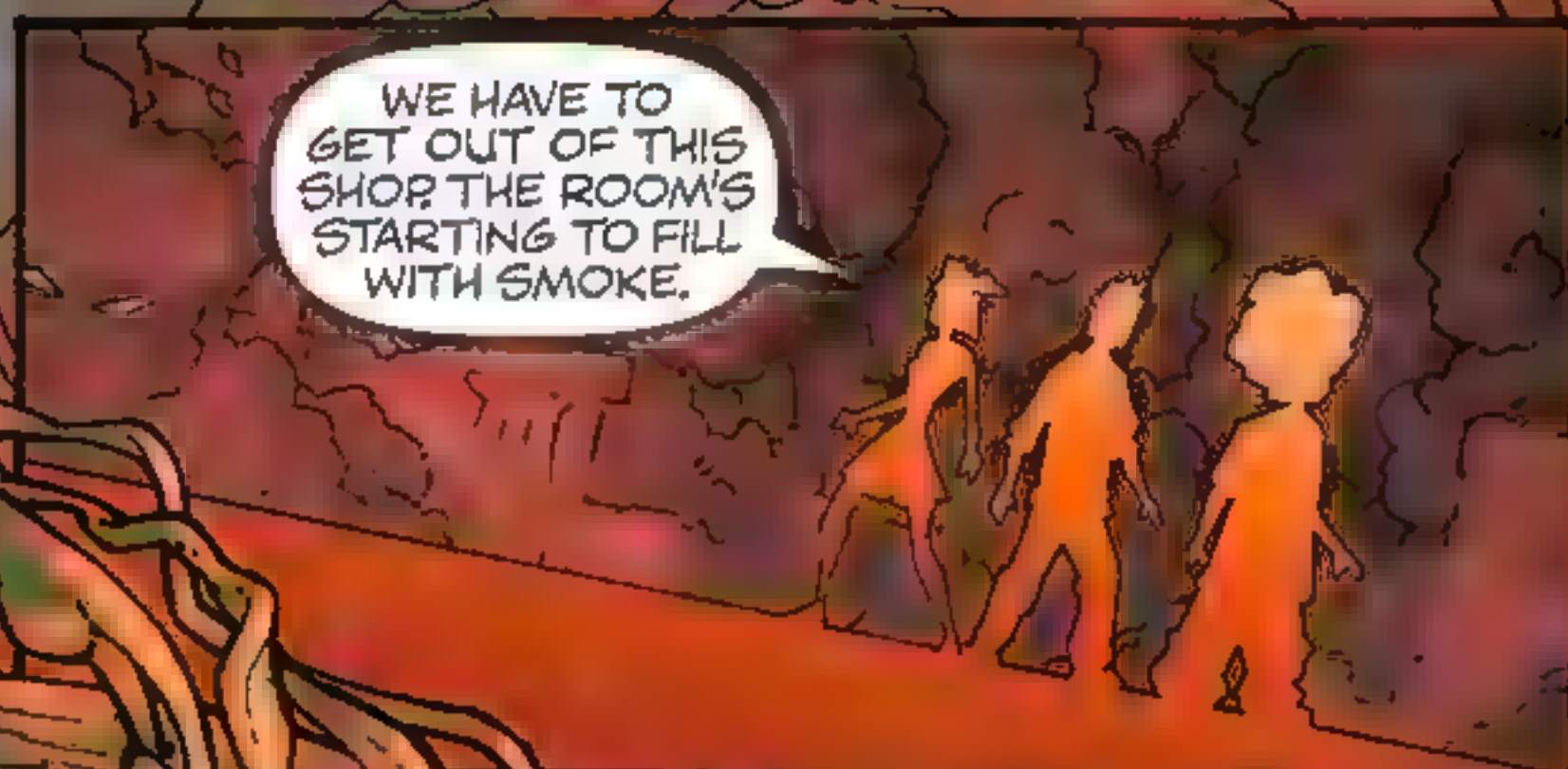
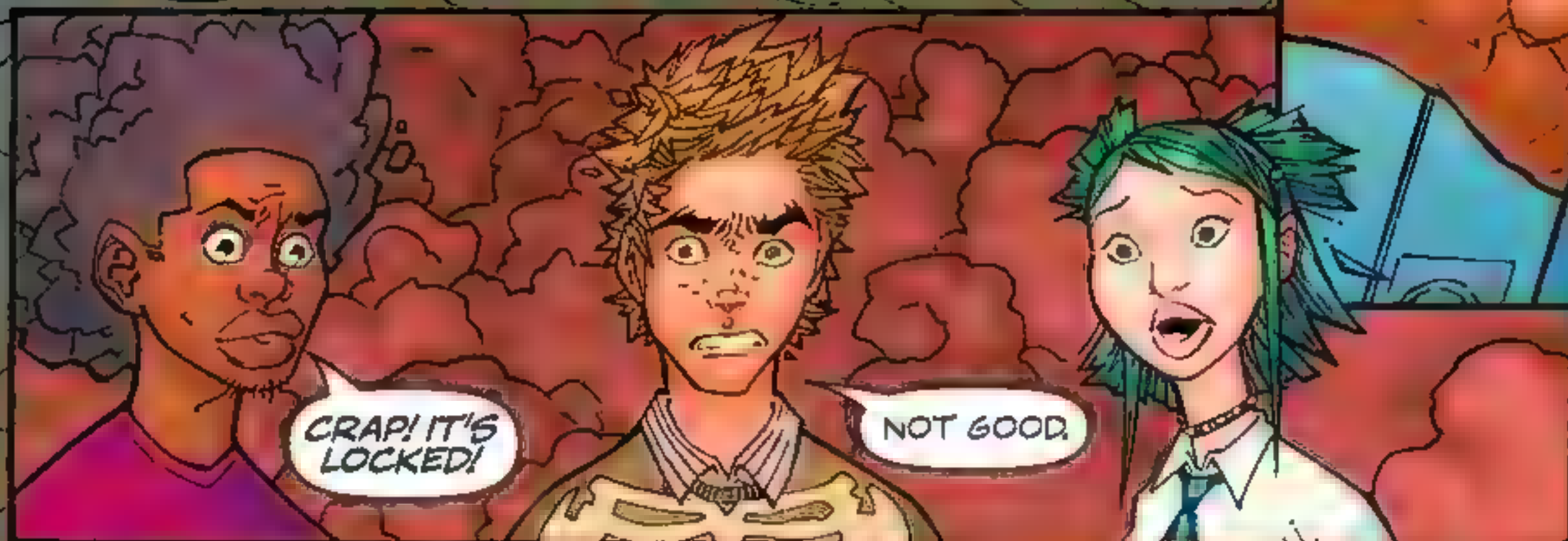
I HAVE AN IDEA. FOLLOW ME.

WE CAN EXIT THOUGH THE BACK OF SHOP CLASS. WE'LL JUST WALK AROUND THE ENGLISH BUILDING AND MEET UP WITH EVERYBODY OUT FRONT.

A MAN WITH A PLAN. GOOD THINKING BRO.

IF IT KEEPS ME OUT OF THIS SMOKE, I'M IN.

SAFETY FIRST



TO BE CONTINUED...



ASPEN

Vol. 1

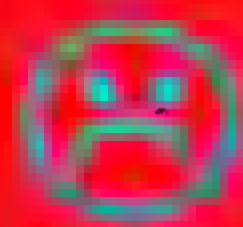
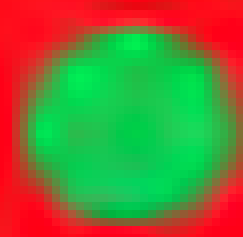
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OF 8

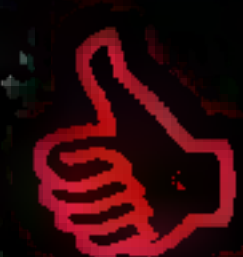
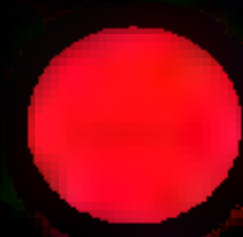
Cover A

SHROGGED





SHRUGGED



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PERSPECTA.

ELYSIAN COUNSEL HALL.

OUR SITUATION IS NOT AS DIRE AS YOU ALL CLAIM.

I KNOW EVERY ONE OF YOU HAVE COME TOGETHER HERE TODAY IN ORDER TO EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS. BUT LET ME REASSURE YOU, EVERYTHING IS IN PRISTINE ORDER...

JUST AS IT ALWAYS IS.

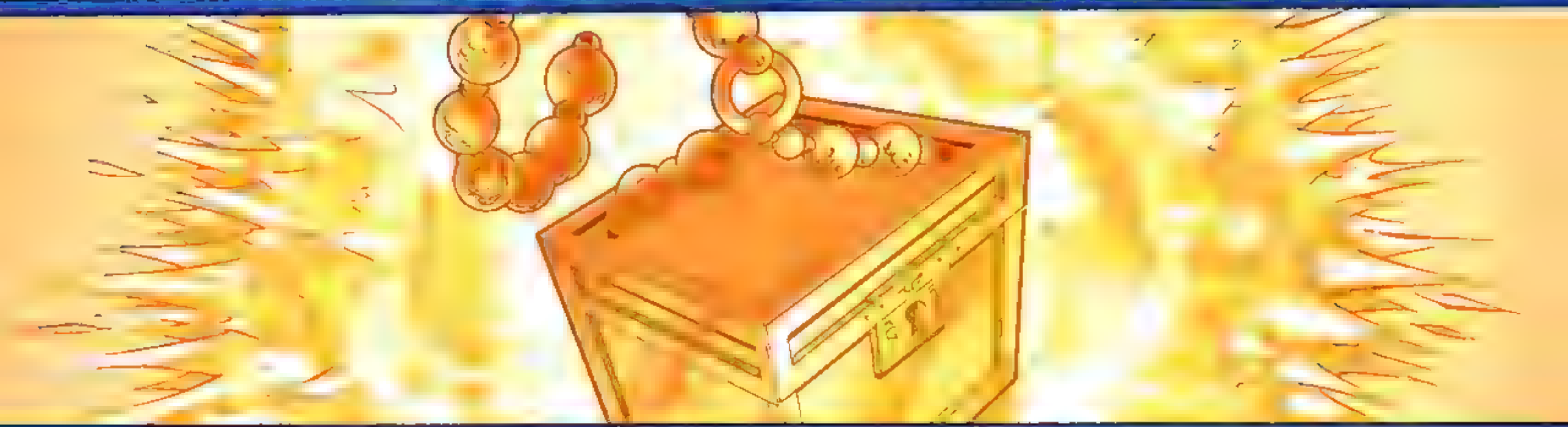
IN FACT, IT'S ACTUALLY BETTER THAN EVER.

OUR ENTIRE ELYSIAN POPULACE HAS RESPONDED WITH ALMOST UNANIMOUS SUPPORT IN REGARDS TO THEIR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE LEADER...

EMBER SILVA.

HER UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS AND INFLUENTIAL ATTRIBUTES HAVE AIDED US IN REACHING AN ALL TIME HIGH WITH OUR FELLOW BRETHREN.

PLUS, WE'VE COME TO DISCOVER THAT SILVA IS IN POSSESSION OF THIS.



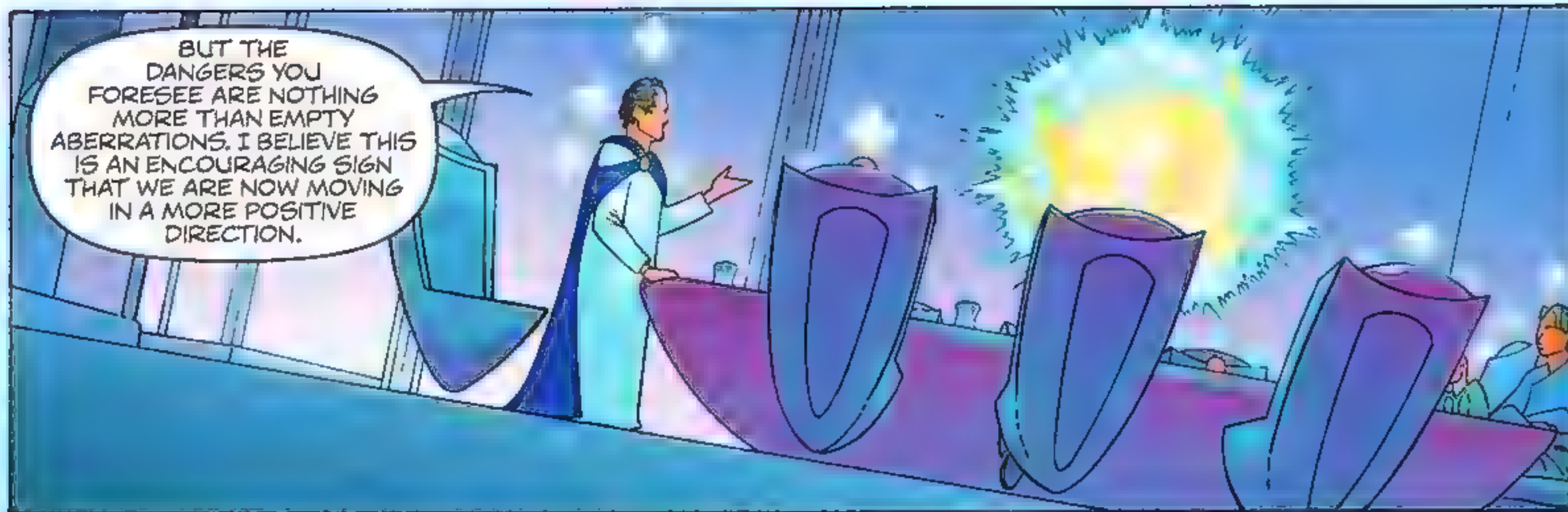
EVEN THOUGH I CANNOT CONDONE HER USE OF IT, I ALSO CANNOT DENY HER AMBITION IN SEEING THE POTENTIAL IT HAS TO BRING TO OUR PEOPLE, PERHAPS IF WE PROVIDE SOME GUIDANCE IN--

AMBITION? POTENTIAL? NOBLE BOHAVEN, WE ARE ALL WELL AWARE OF THE RAMIFICATIONS THE CONTENTS OF THAT BOX CAN CAUSE.

HAVING TO EXILE IT OVER TWO CYCLES AGO WAS NOT AN EASY DECISION FOR US, BUT A NECESSARY ONE. IF THE POWERS WITHIN WERE TO BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, I SIMPLY CANNOT IMAGINE THE SEVERITY OF DANGER WE WOULD ALL FACE.

I FEAR WE MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE.

YOUR FEAR HAS BEEN NOTED MARINA.

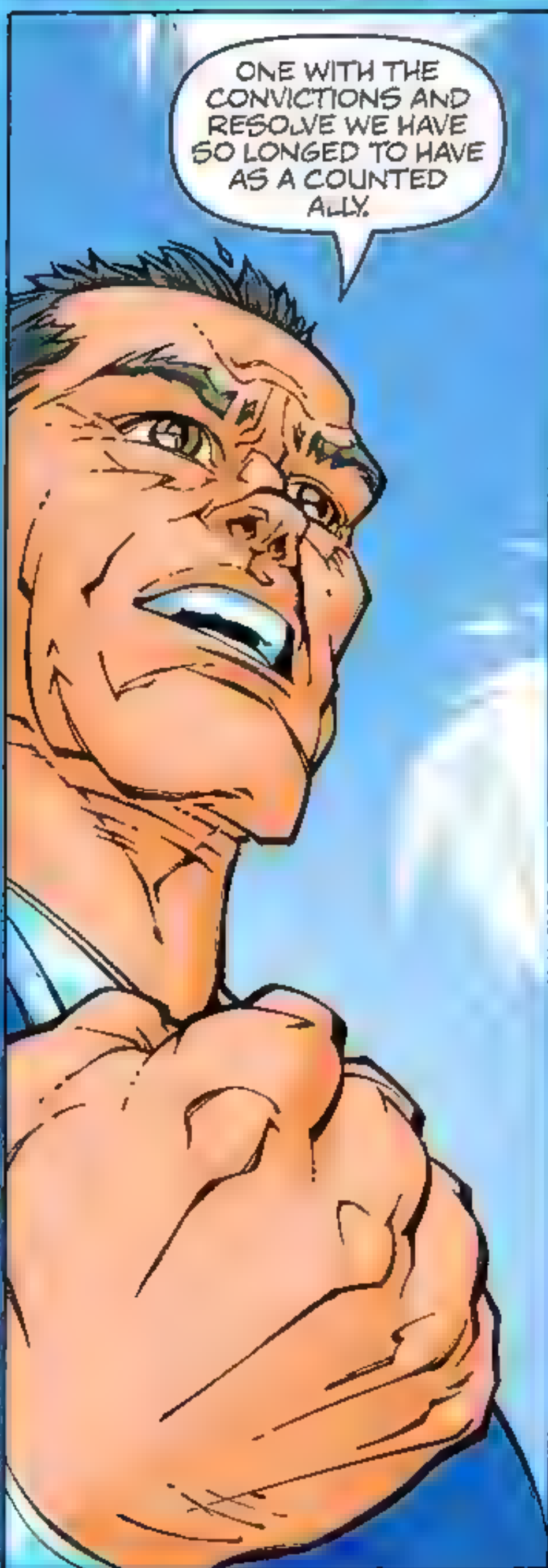


BUT THE DANGERS YOU FORESEE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN EMPTY ABERRATIONS. I BELIEVE THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN THAT WE ARE NOW MOVING IN A MORE POSITIVE DIRECTION.



AS WELL, WE ARE TRULY IN A BLESSED TIME.

A REMARKABLE HUMAN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED.



ONE WITH THE CONVICTIONS AND RESOLVE WE HAVE SO LONGED TO HAVE AS A COUNTED ALLY.



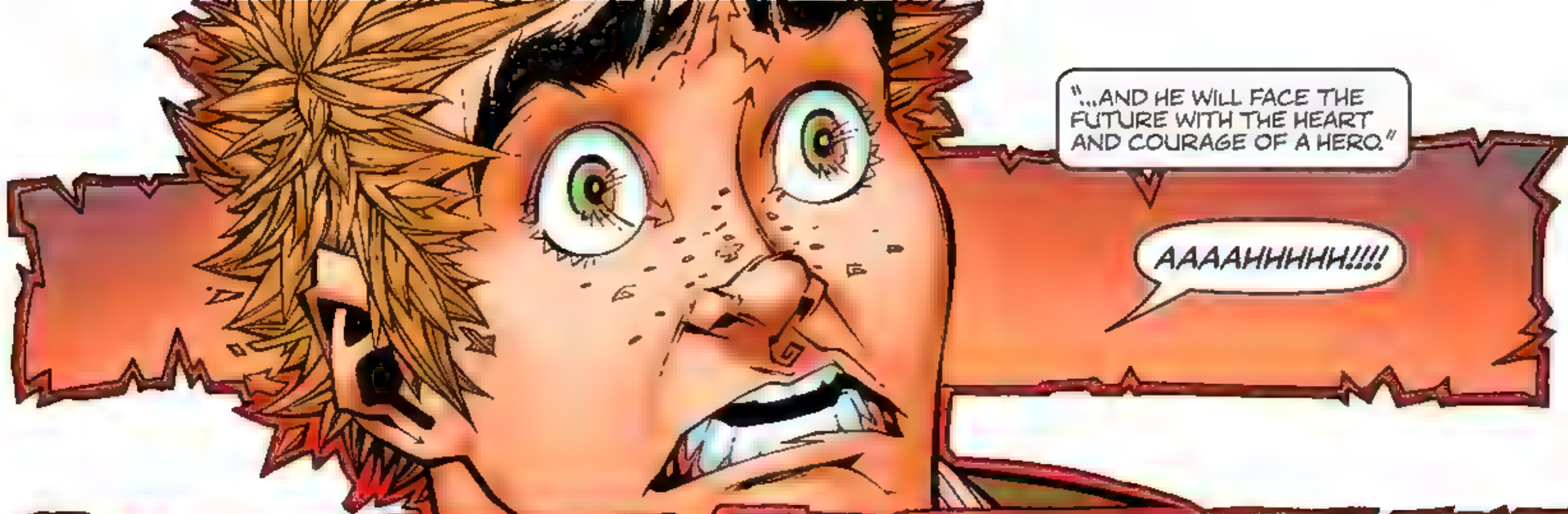
HE WILL HELP LEAD US INTO THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF OUR KIND.



HE WILL BE OUR CORNERSTONE OF DETERMINATION...



OUR IMPENETRABLE VESSEL OF STRENGTH...

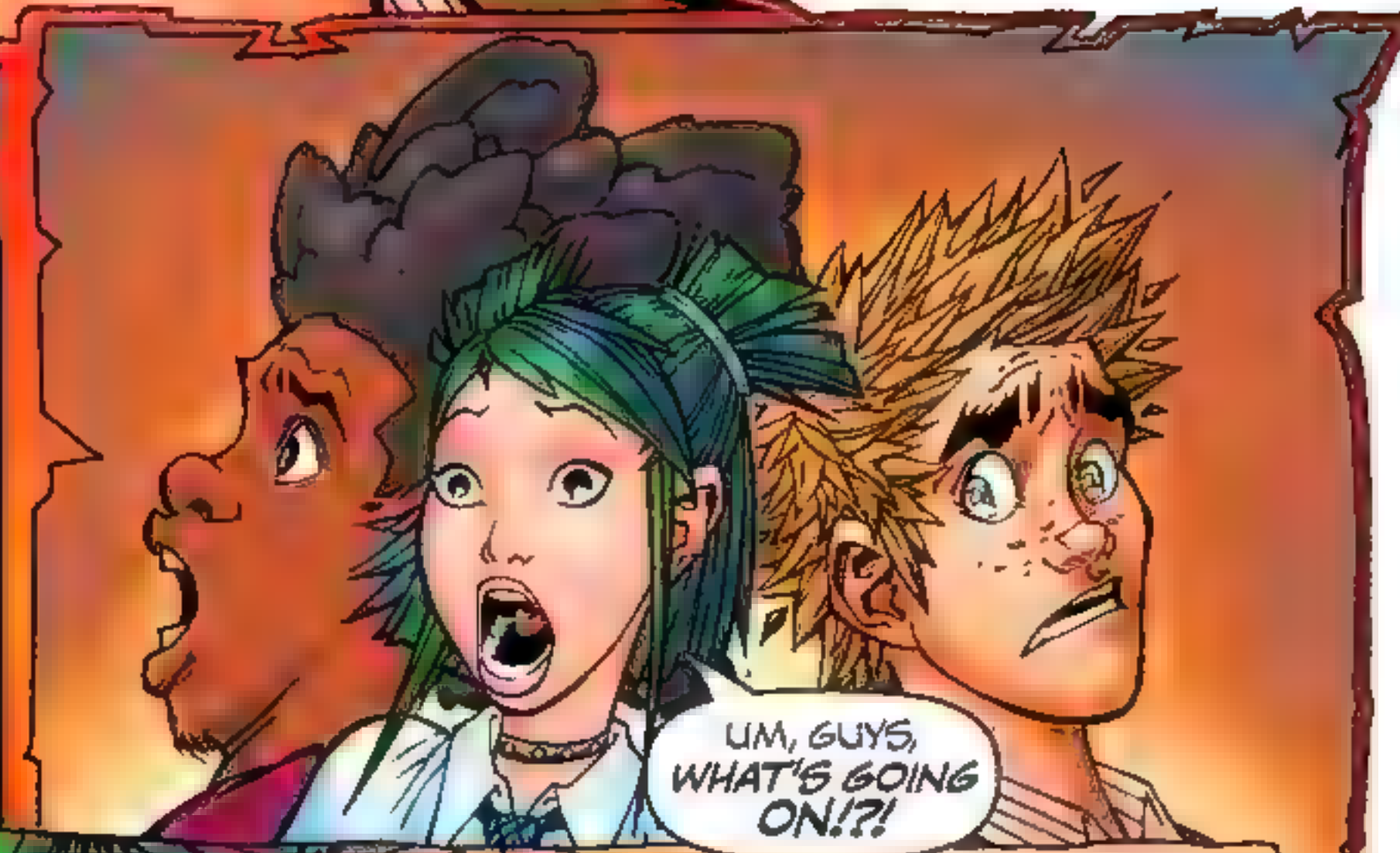


"...AND HE WILL FACE THE FUTURE WITH THE HEART AND COURAGE OF A HERO."

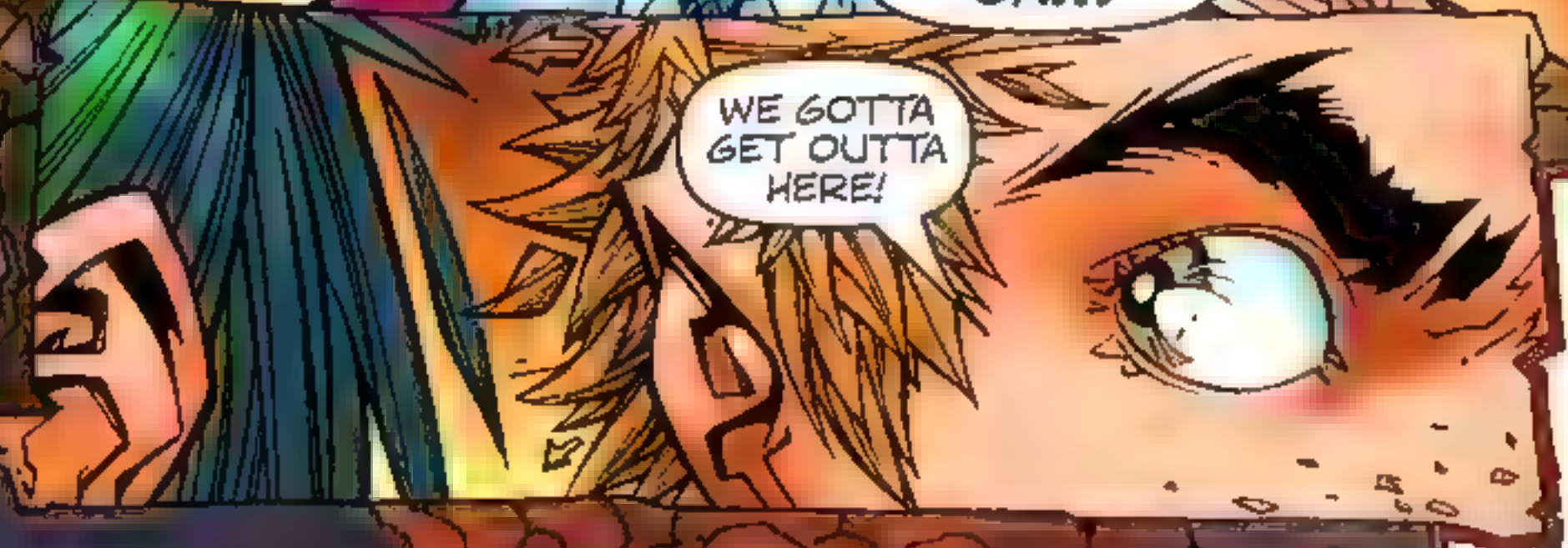
AAAAHHHHH!!!!



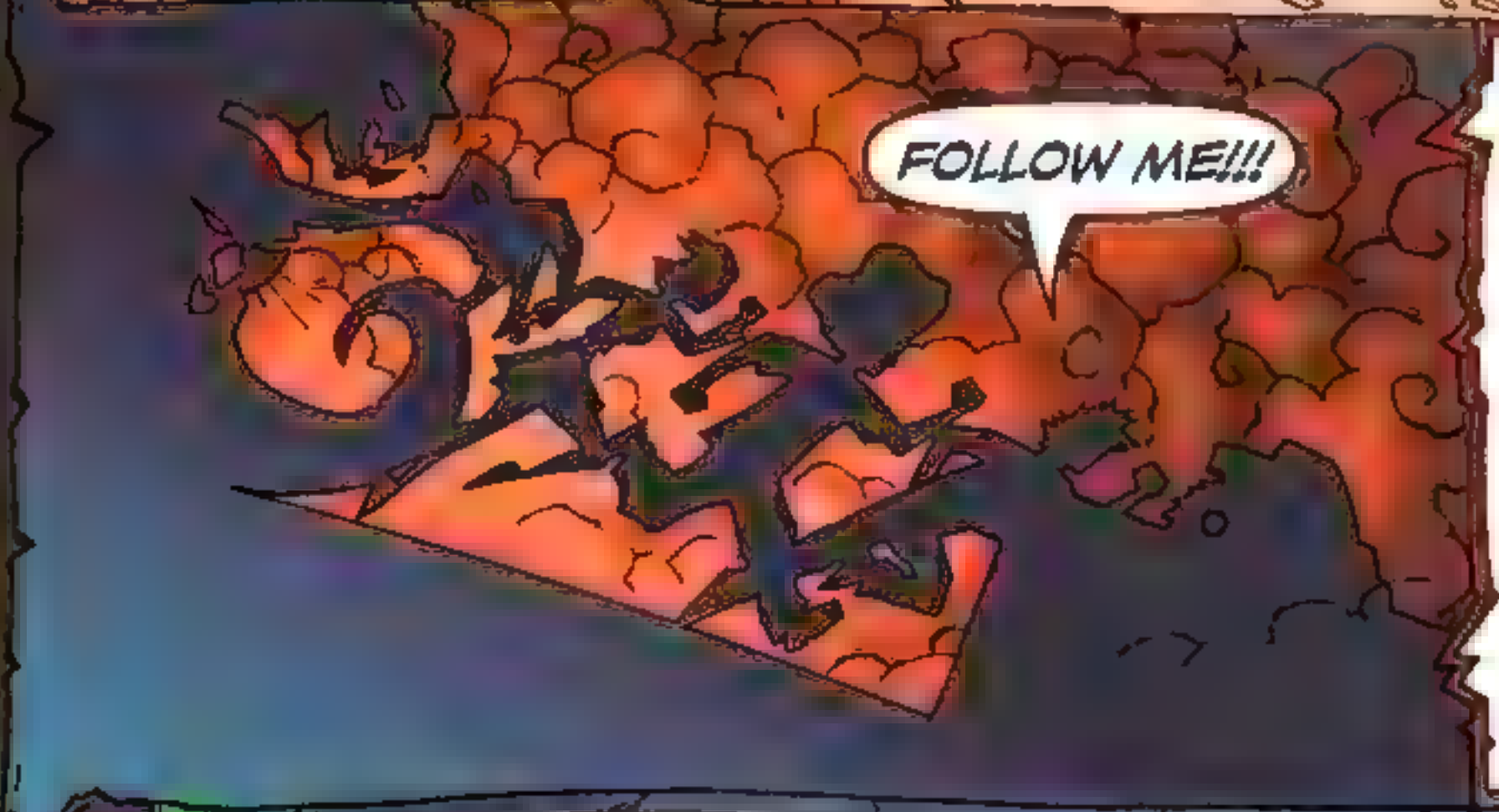
SHOP CLASS



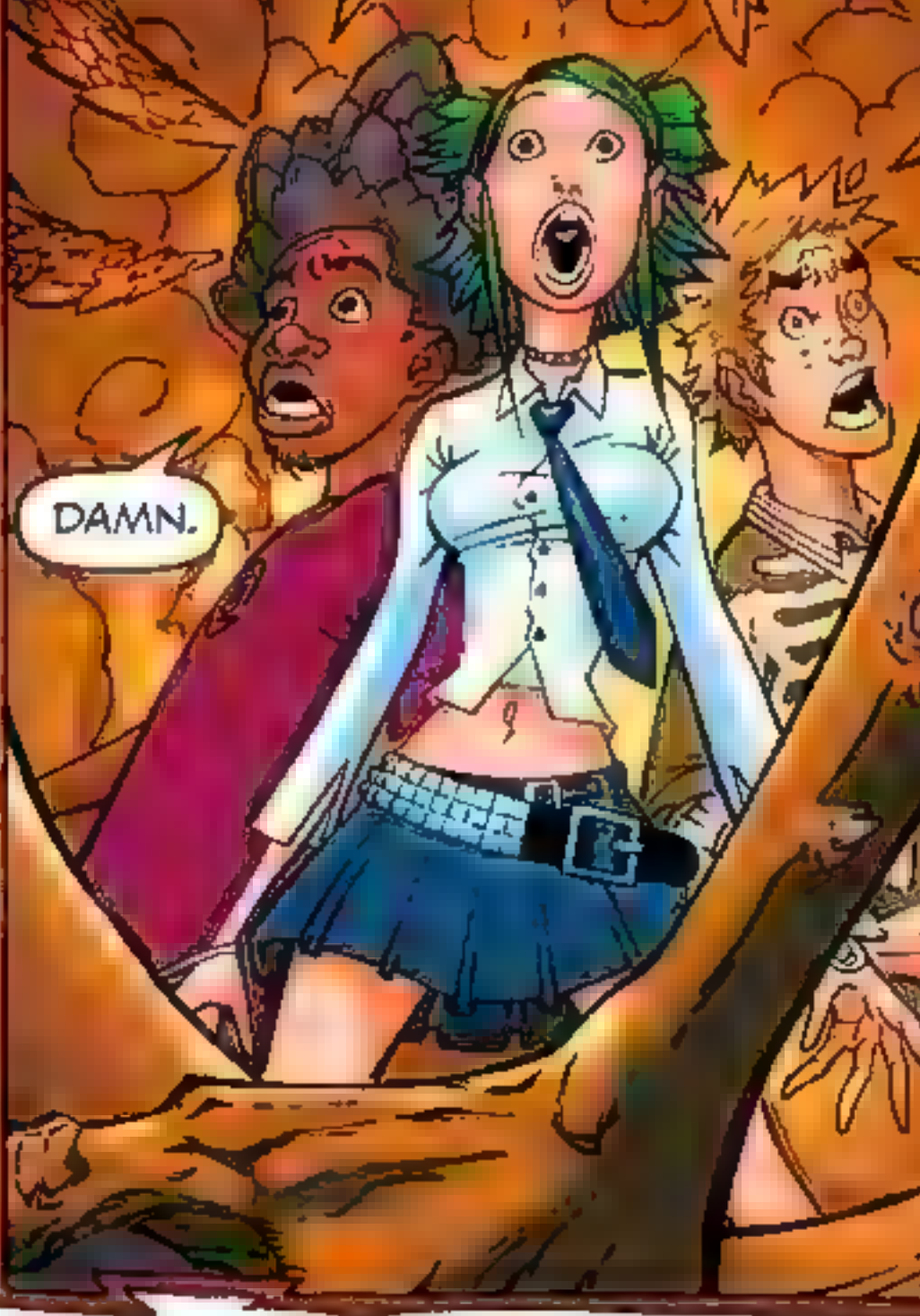
UM, GUYS, WHAT'S GOING ON!?!



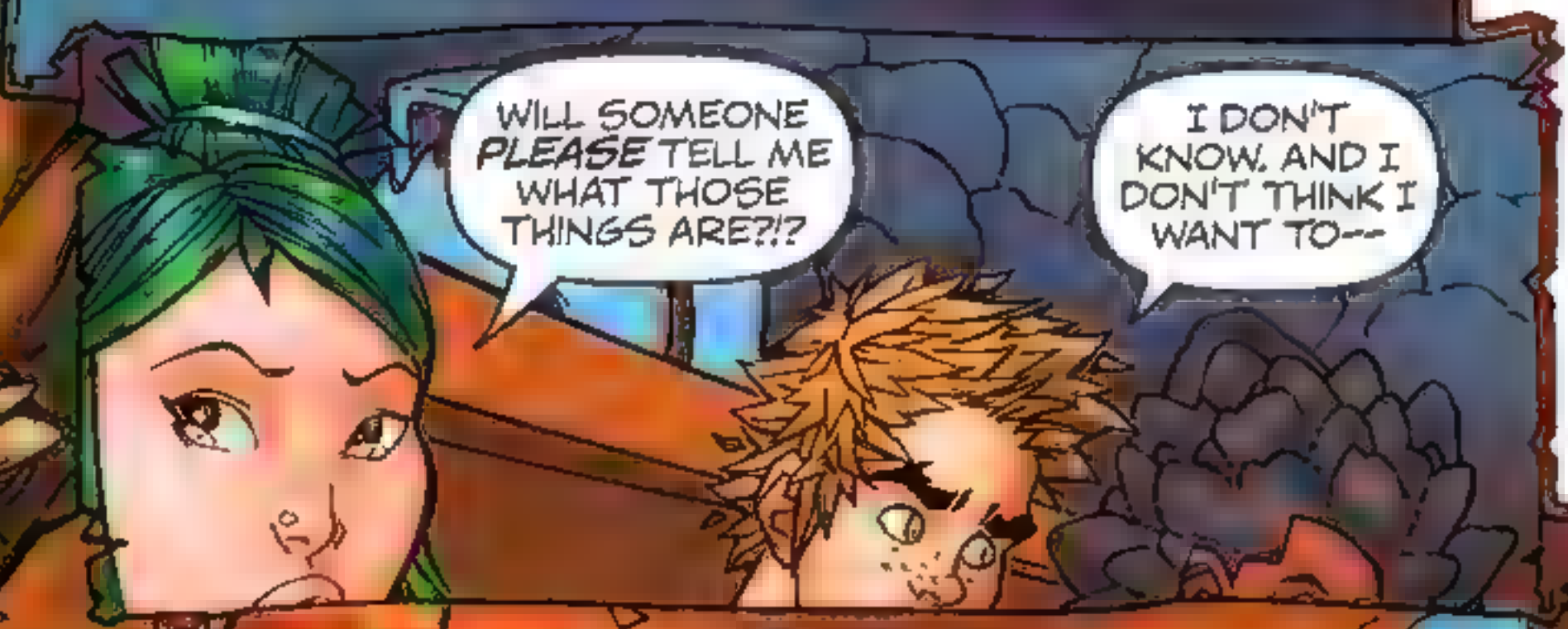
WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!



FOLLOW ME!!!

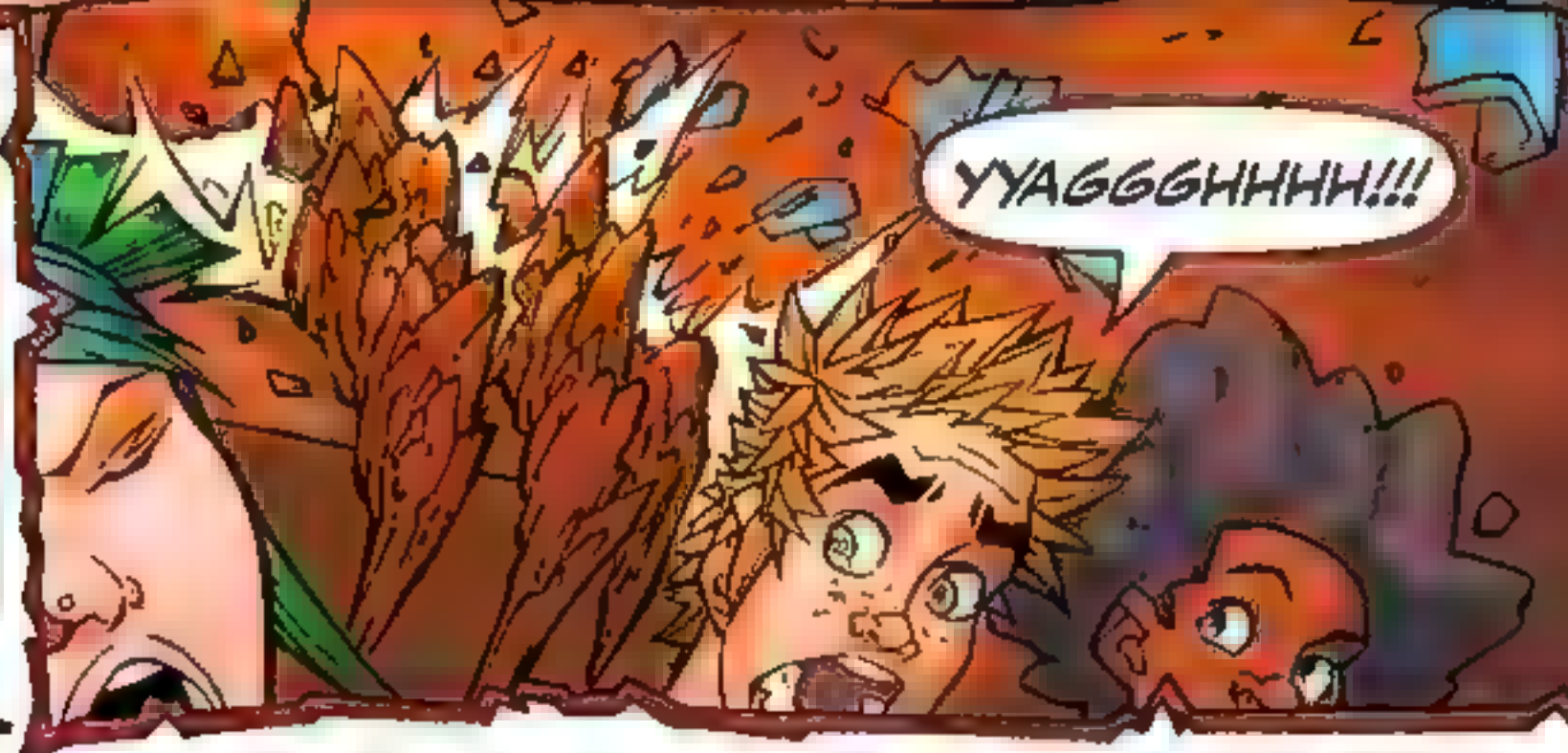


DAMN.

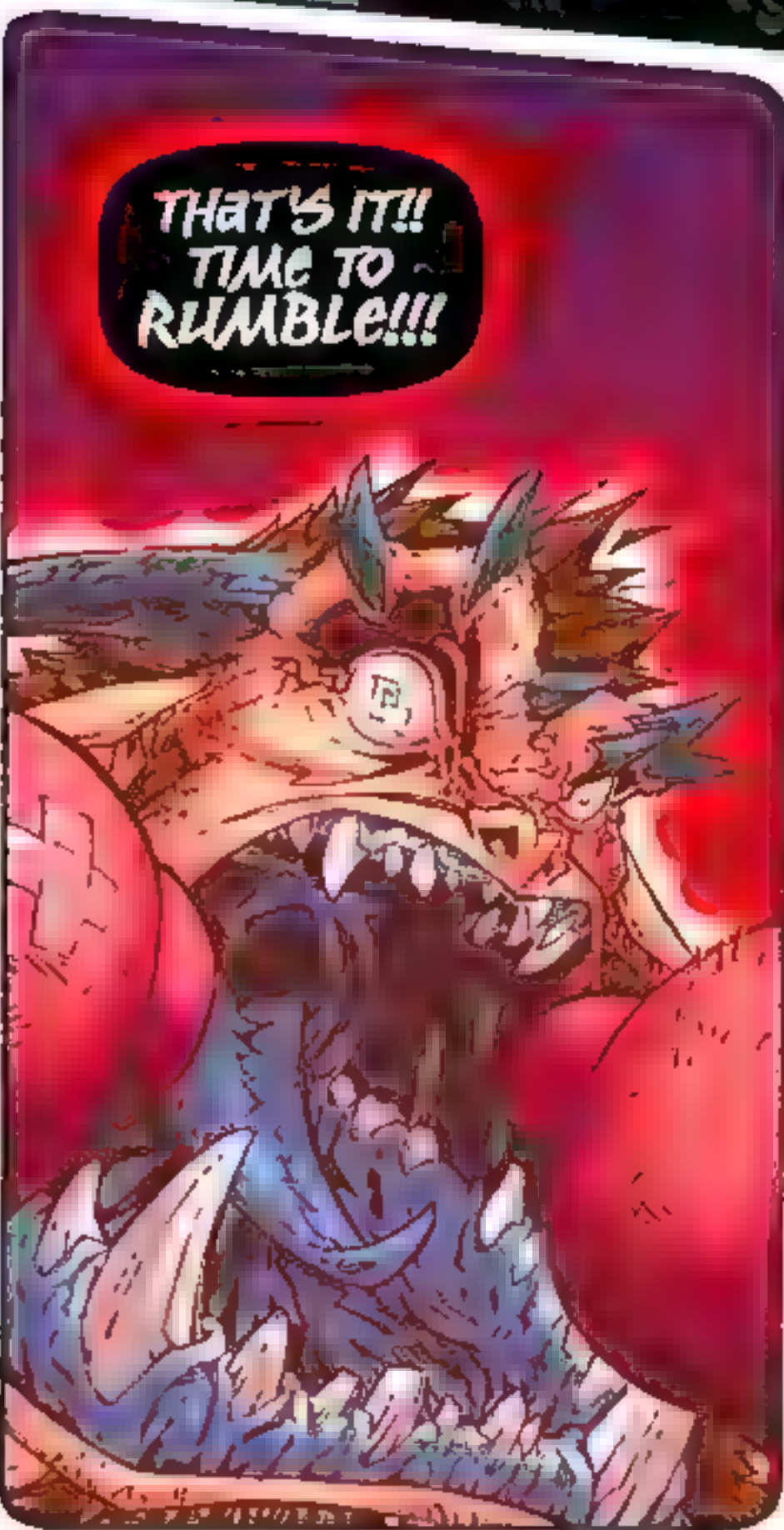
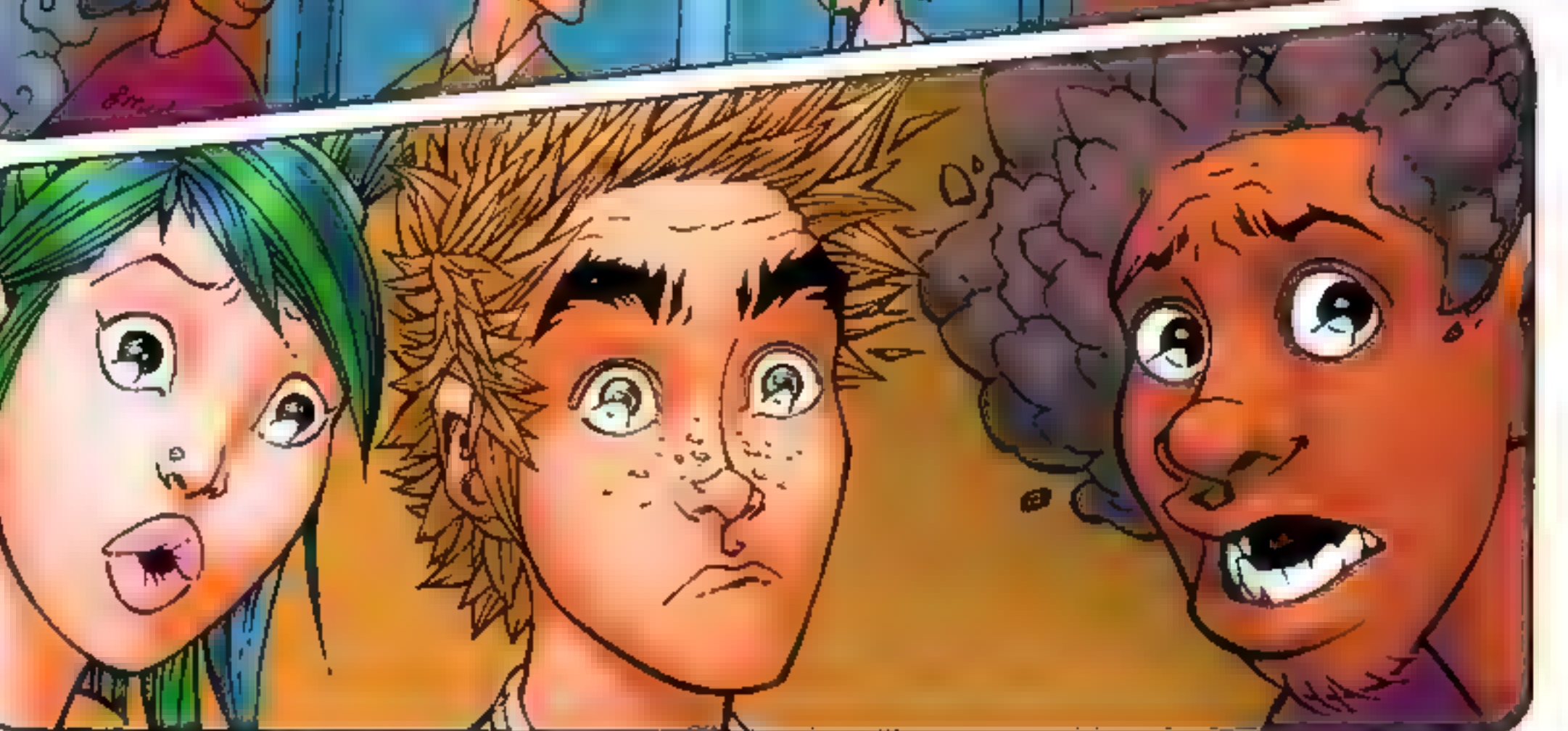
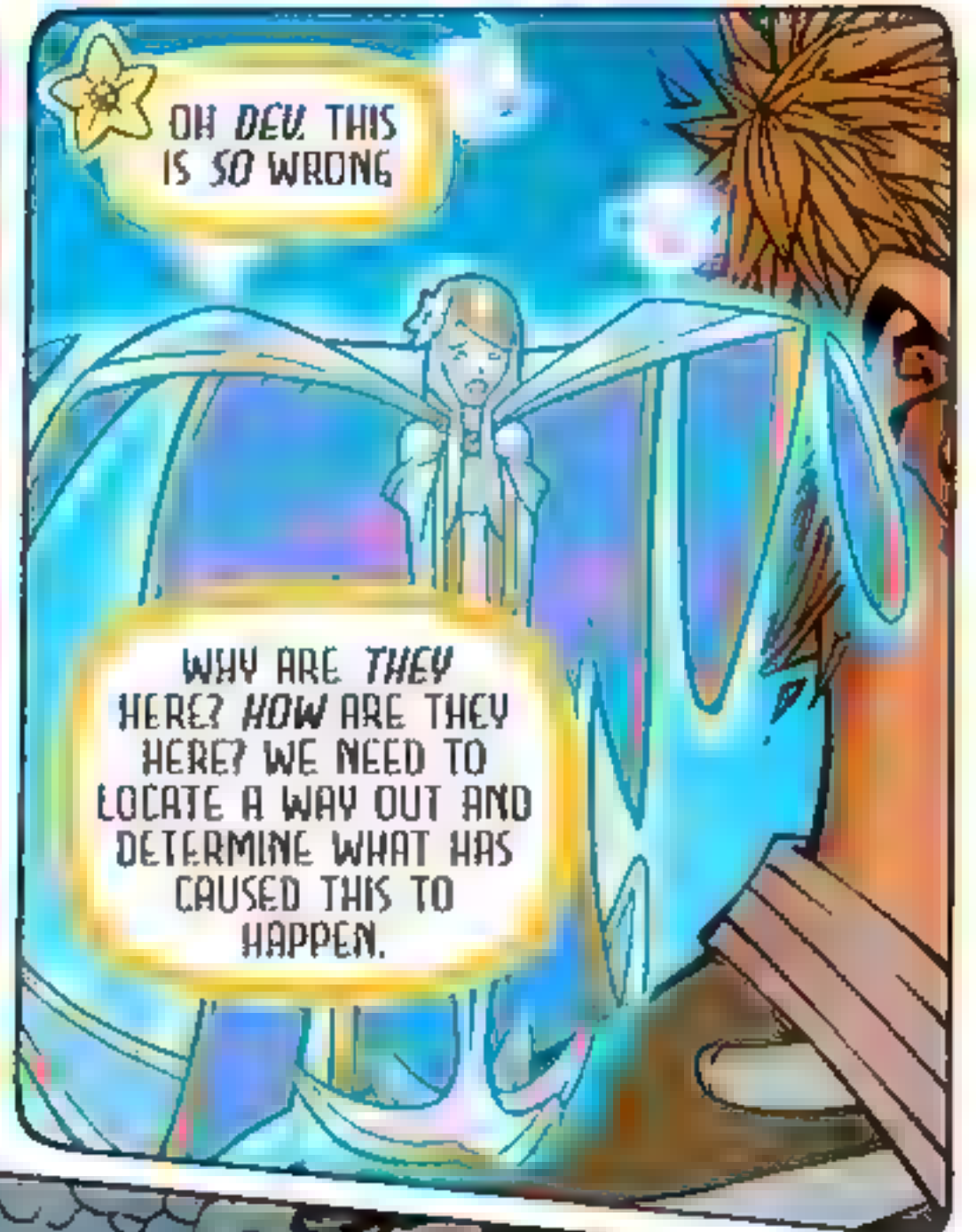
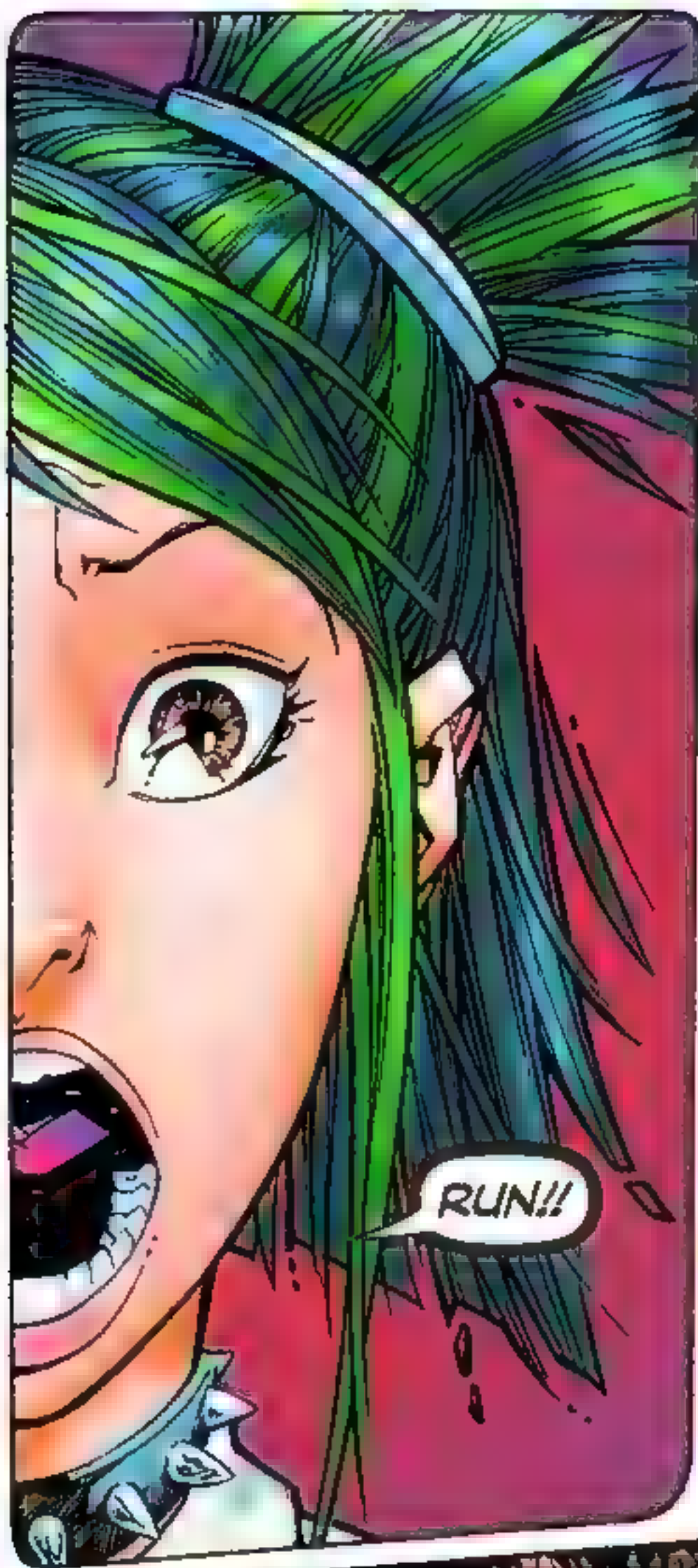


WILL SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME WHAT THOSE THINGS ARE!?!?

I DON'T KNOW, AND I DON'T THINK I WANT TO--



YYAGGGHHHH!!!





AAHHHHH!!!

AAHHHHH!!!

SUP MR. FINKLES? HOW'S YOUR DAY?

YOU KIDS SCARED THE TAR OUTTA ME. WHAT'CHA ALL DOIN' IN THERE? EVERYONE'S EVACUATED. THERE'S A FIRE IN CASE YA DIDN'T NOTICE.

THERE'S MONSTERS IN THERE FINK!! THEY CAME RIGHT OUTTA THE SMOKE AND HAD US MAD TRAPPED UNTIL YOU SHOWED UP. SERIOUSLY YO, CHECK IT OUT!

NOTHING BUT WORK TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT. WE BEST BE GETTIN' YOU KIDS TO THE NURSE. YOU MAY BE SUFFERIN' FROM TOO MUCH SMOKE.

NO, HONEST. THERE WAS SOMETHING THERE.

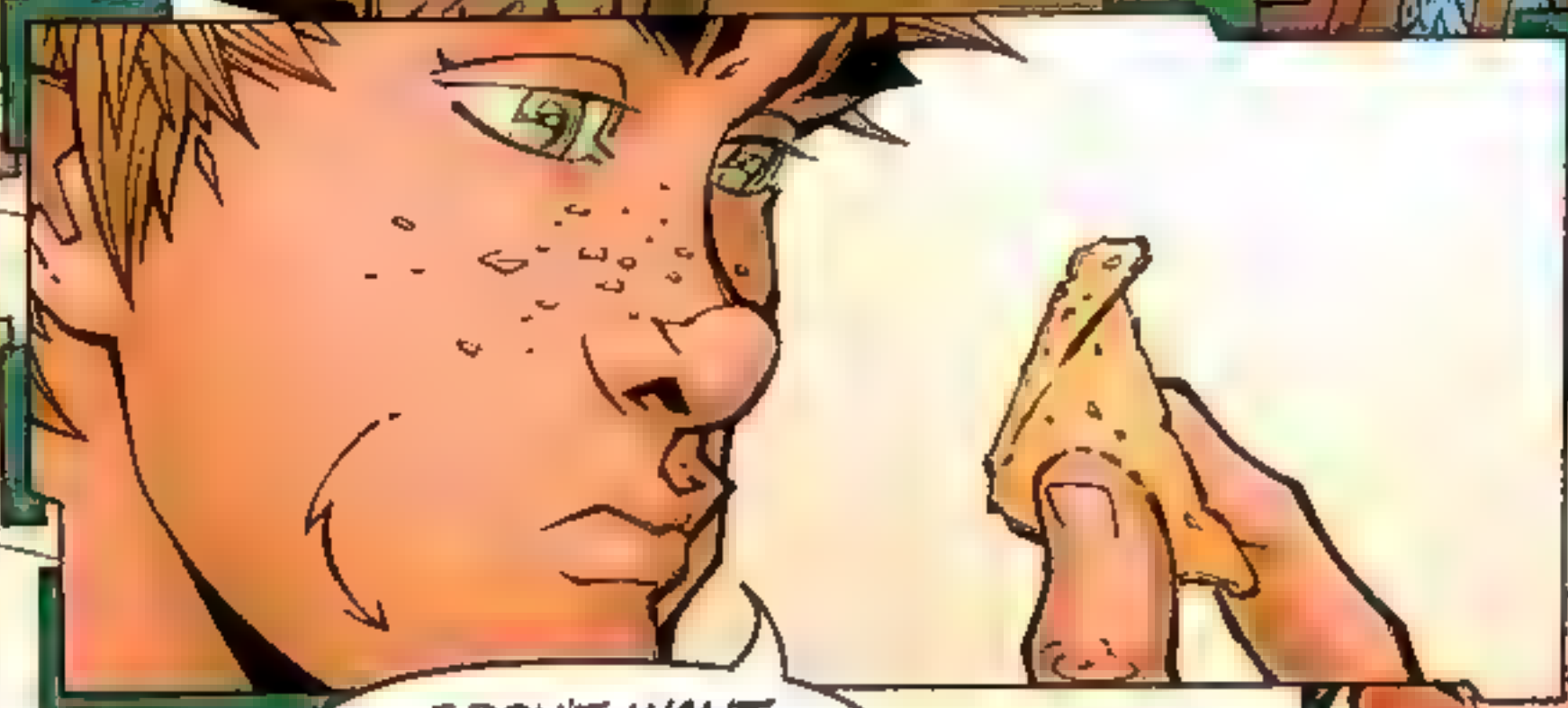
REALLY.



LATER

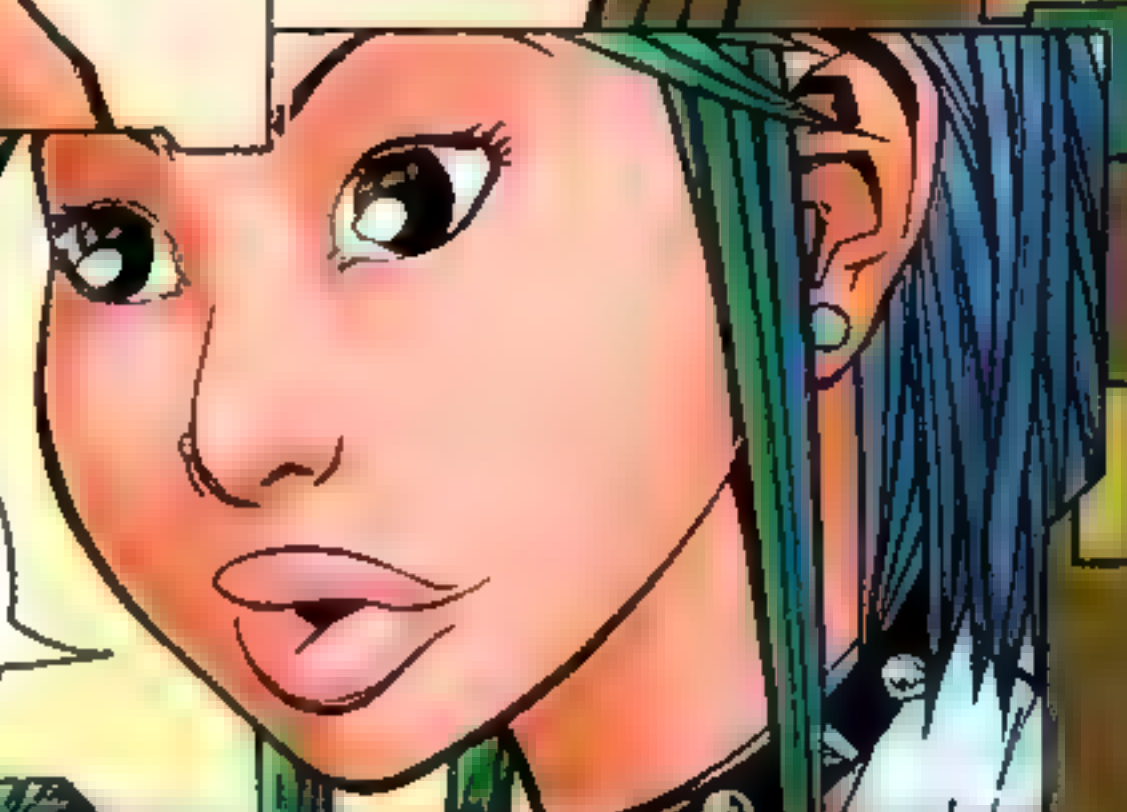
KIORI'S HOUSE

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER. DID WE REALLY SEE THOSE THINGS, THOSE... CREATURES?



I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT SO MANY STRANGE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING LATELY THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE ANY MORE. THAT SURE WAS NUTS.

I KNOW. EVEN THOM GOT FREAKED OUT. THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN.



YEAH, I'LL GIVE HIM A CALL LATER TO CHECK ON HIM, BUT I THINK HE'LL BE ALRIGHT.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

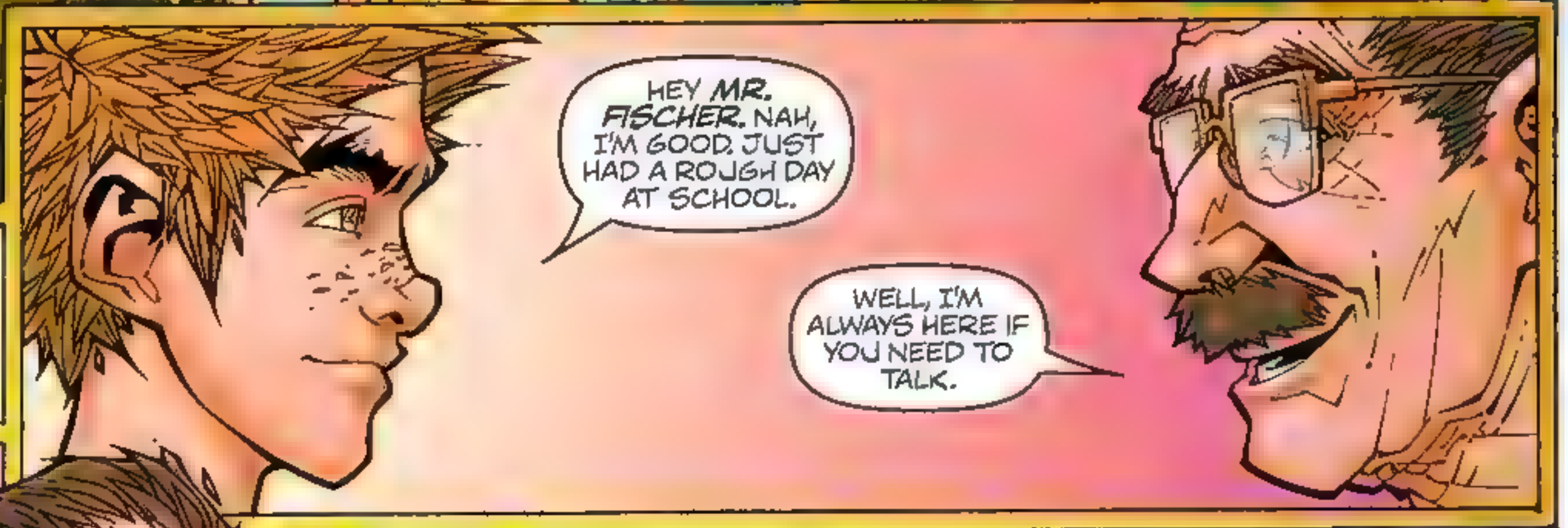
YOU OK?





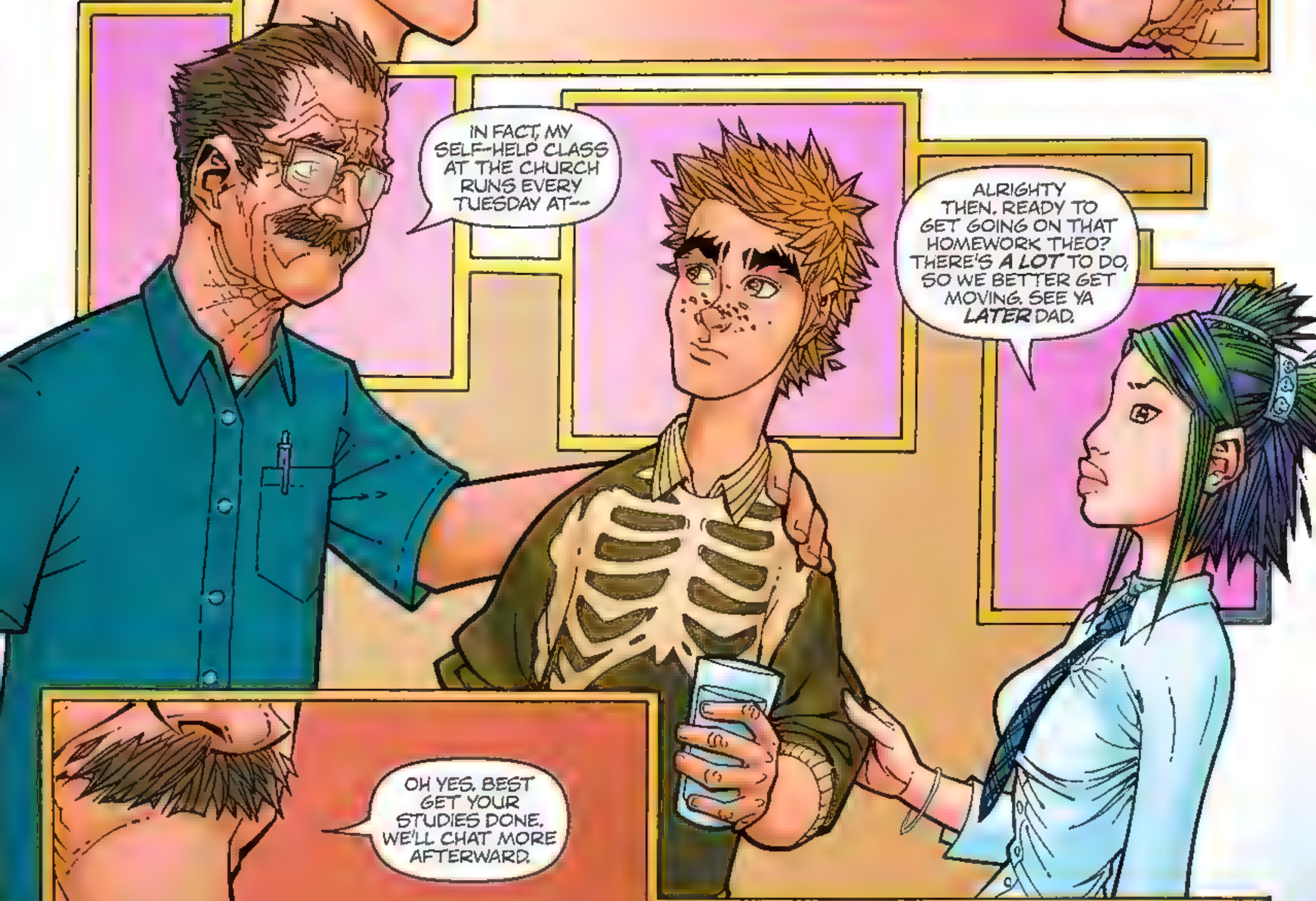
YEAH, IT'S JUST THAT--

THEO, ARE YOU FEELING ILL? YOU'RE NOT COMING DOWN WITH A COLD ARE YOU?



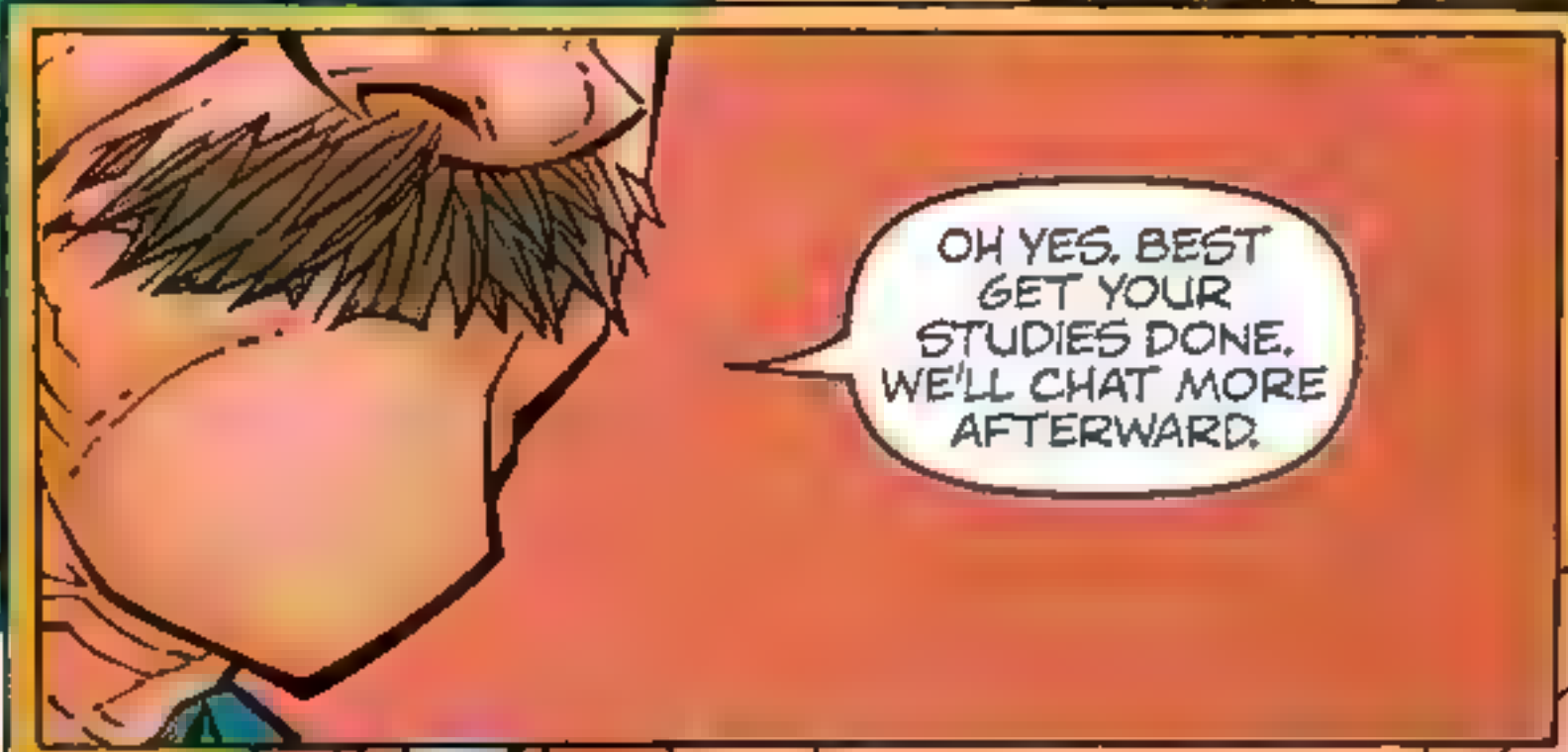
HEY MR. FISCHER. NAH, I'M GOOD. JUST HAD A ROUGH DAY AT SCHOOL.

WELL, I'M ALWAYS HERE IF YOU NEED TO TALK.

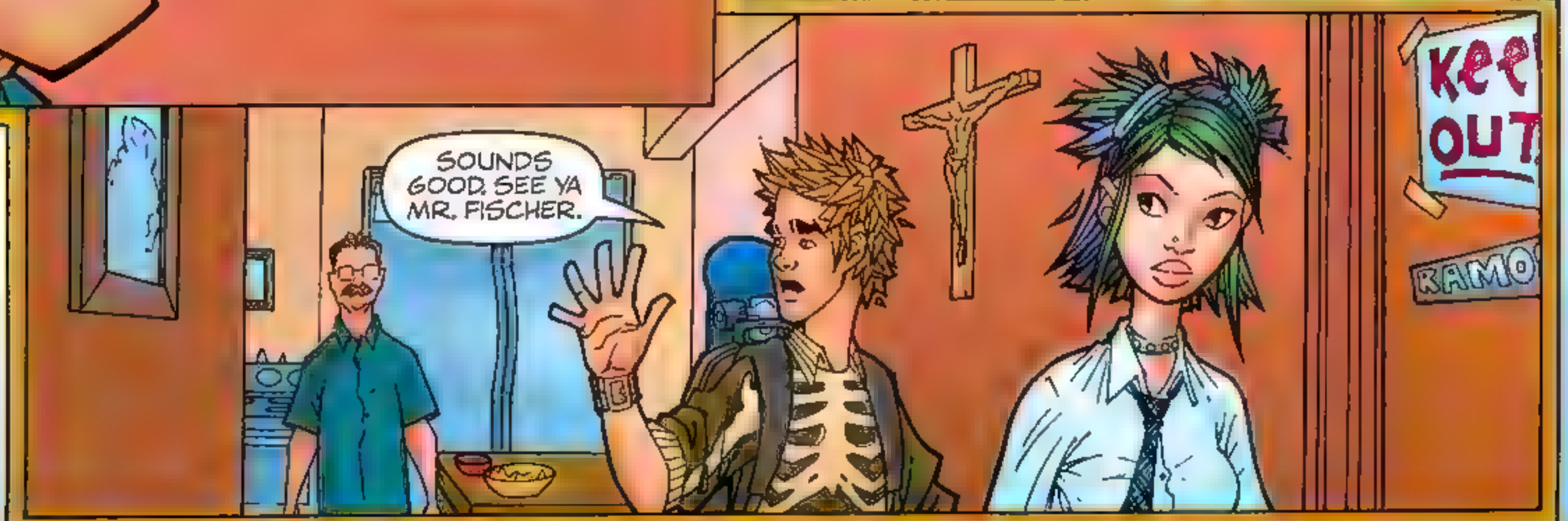


IN FACT, MY SELF-HELP CLASS AT THE CHURCH RUNS EVERY TUESDAY AT--

ALRIGHTY THEN. READY TO GET GOING ON THAT HOMEWORK THEO? THERE'S A LOT TO DO, SO WE BETTER GET MOVING. SEE YA LATER DAD.



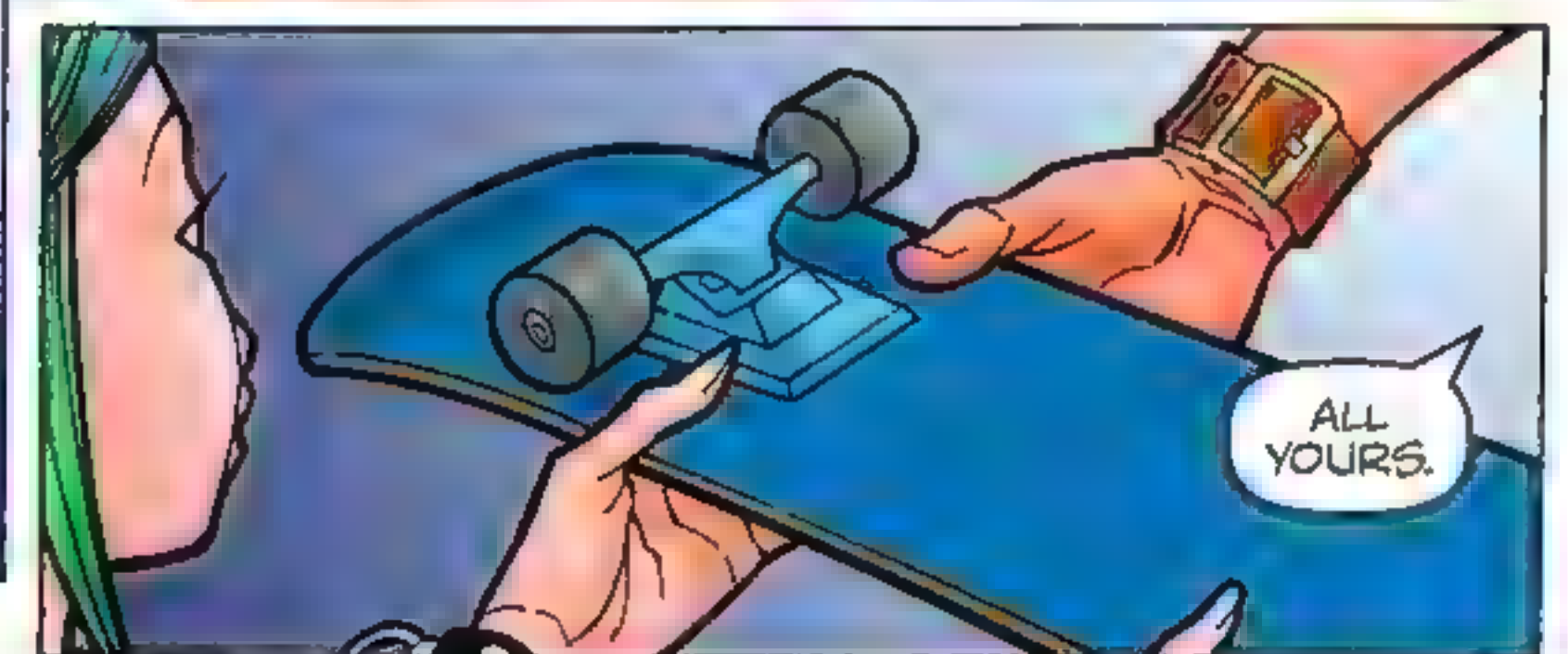
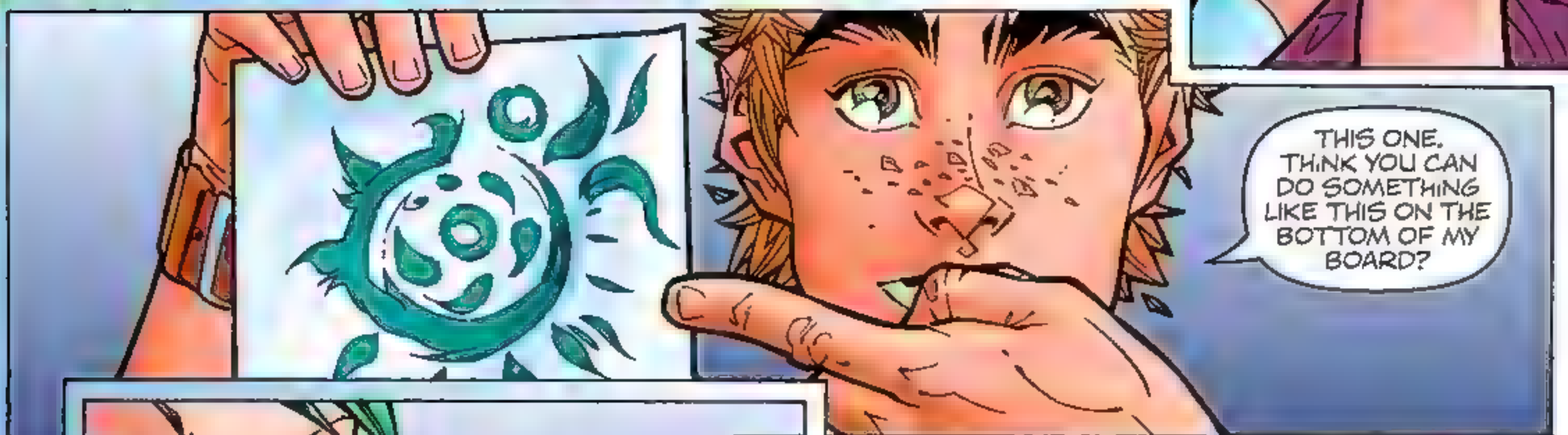
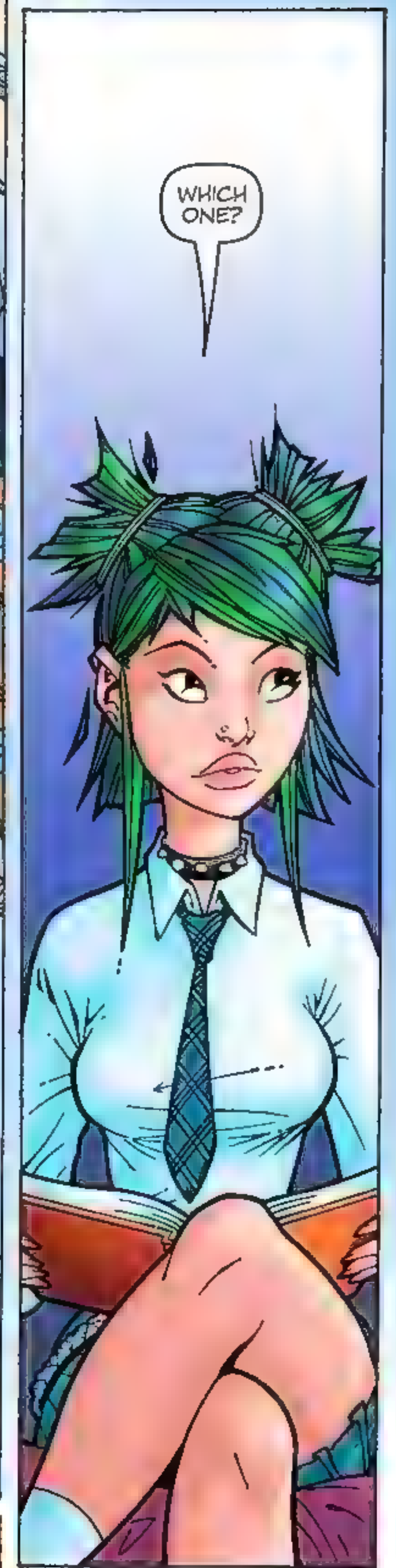
OH YES. BEST GET YOUR STUDIES DONE. WE'LL CHAT MORE AFTERWARD.

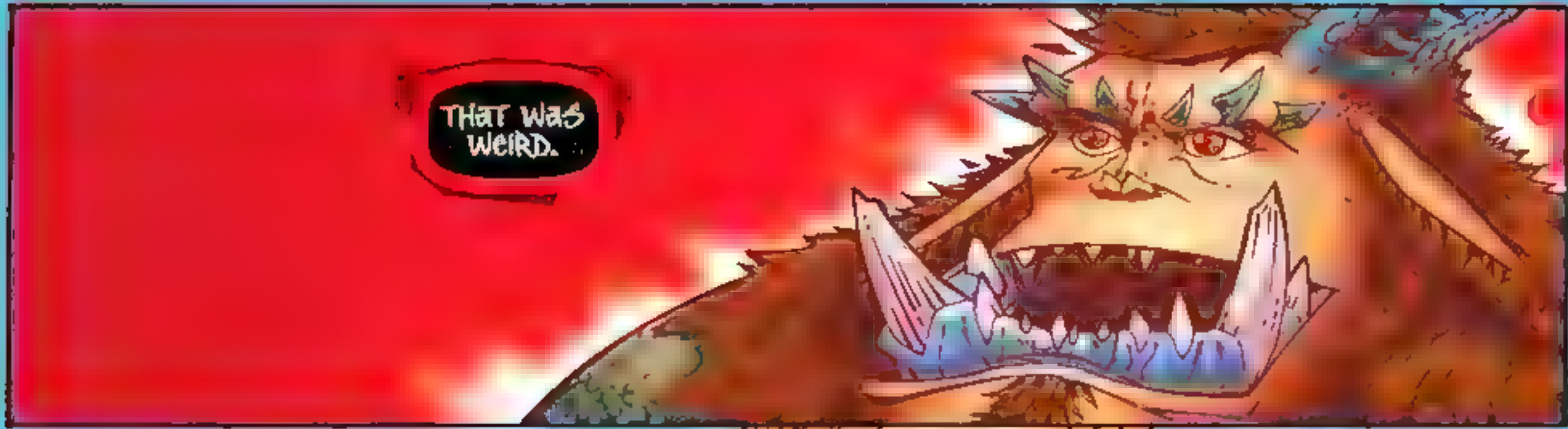


SOUNDS GOOD. SEE YA MR. FISCHER.

KEEP OUT

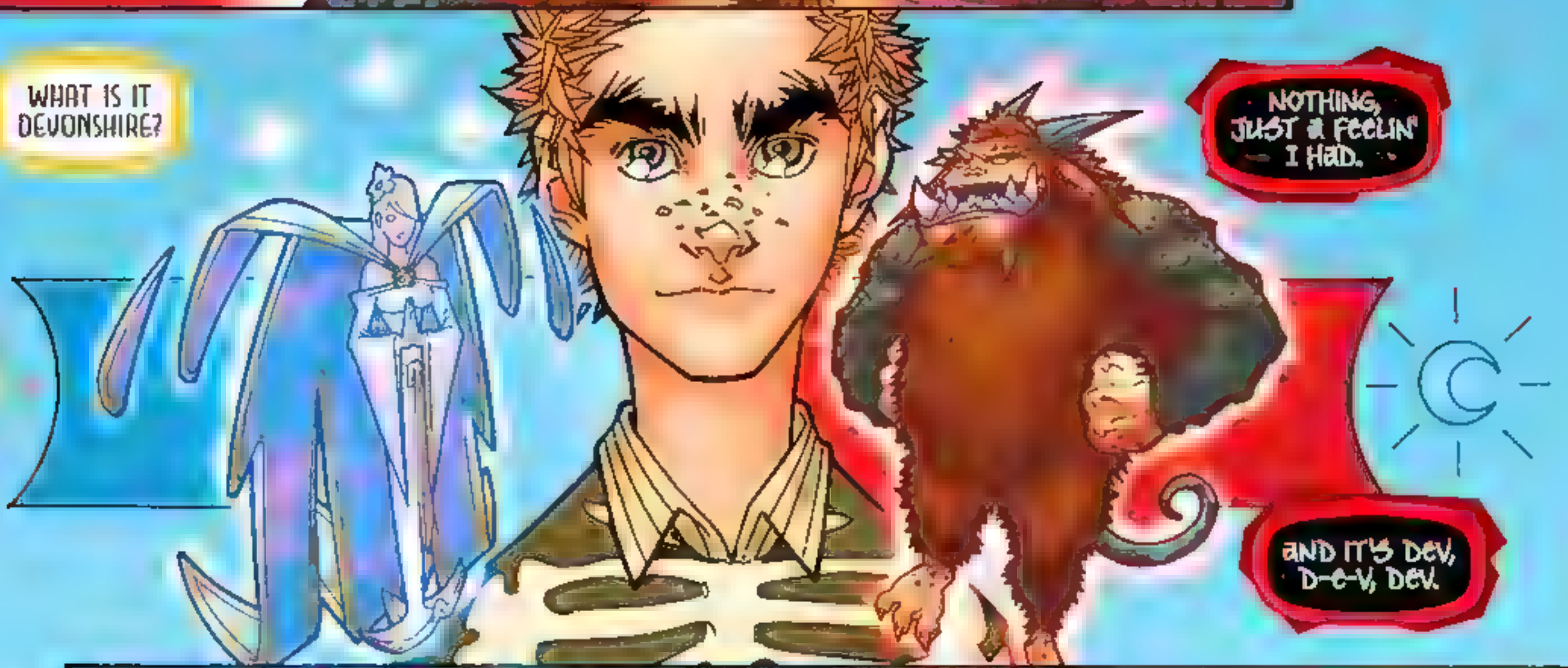
RAMO





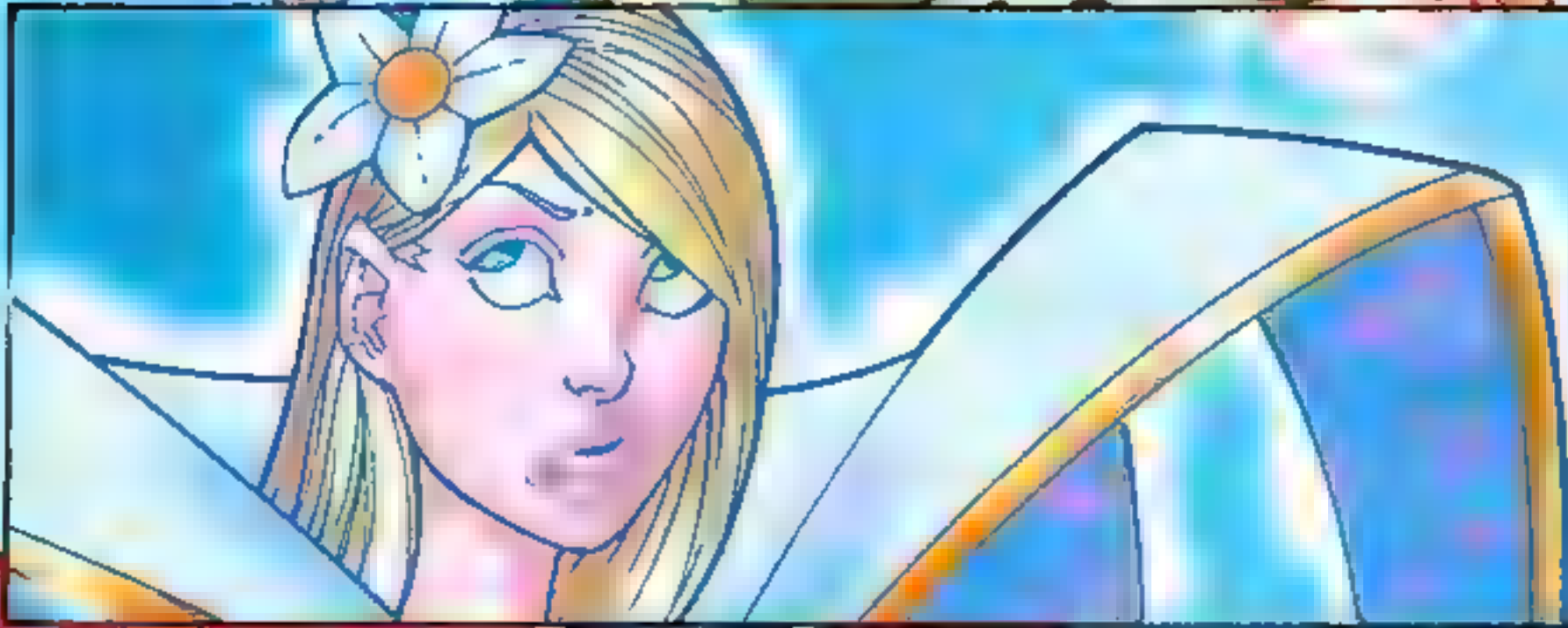
THAT WAS
WEIRD.

WHAT IS IT
DEVONSHIRE?



NOTHING,
JUST A FEELIN'
I HAD.

AND IT'S DEV,
D-E-V, DEV.



MY APOLOGIES, MR.
GROUCHY GUS. SOMEONE
SURE WOKE UP ON THE
WRONG SIDE OF THE
SHOULDER TODAY.



HNUH, FUNNY...
WITH A CAPITAL F.U.
DARLIN!



WHY YOU... YOU,
CRETIN. THAT IS SO... YOU
ARE SUCH A... OH, FORGET IT.
LET US JUST ADMIRE SOME
MORE OF KIORI'S NICE
ILLUSTRATIONS. IT MAKES
HER FEEL HAPPY.

WHATEVER. SURE,
LET'S MAKE THE HOTTIES'
DAY. BESIDES, THE WAY
SHE'S SITTING THERE DRAWING
ON THE BED, THAT TIE REALLY
ACCENTUATES HER—

DEV!!!

DRAWINGS!
NICE DRAWINGS,
BLAH BLAH...

THIS ONE IS
PRETTY AWESOME,
TOO. MAYBE YOU
COULD INCORPORATE
SOME OF THE
DESIGNS IT HAS.

FOUR
SYLLABLE
WORDS TODAY,
HUH? YOU MUST
REALLY LIKE IT.

YEAH, I DO.
THERE'S
SOMETHING ABOUT
IT THAT'S JUST
MESMERIZING.

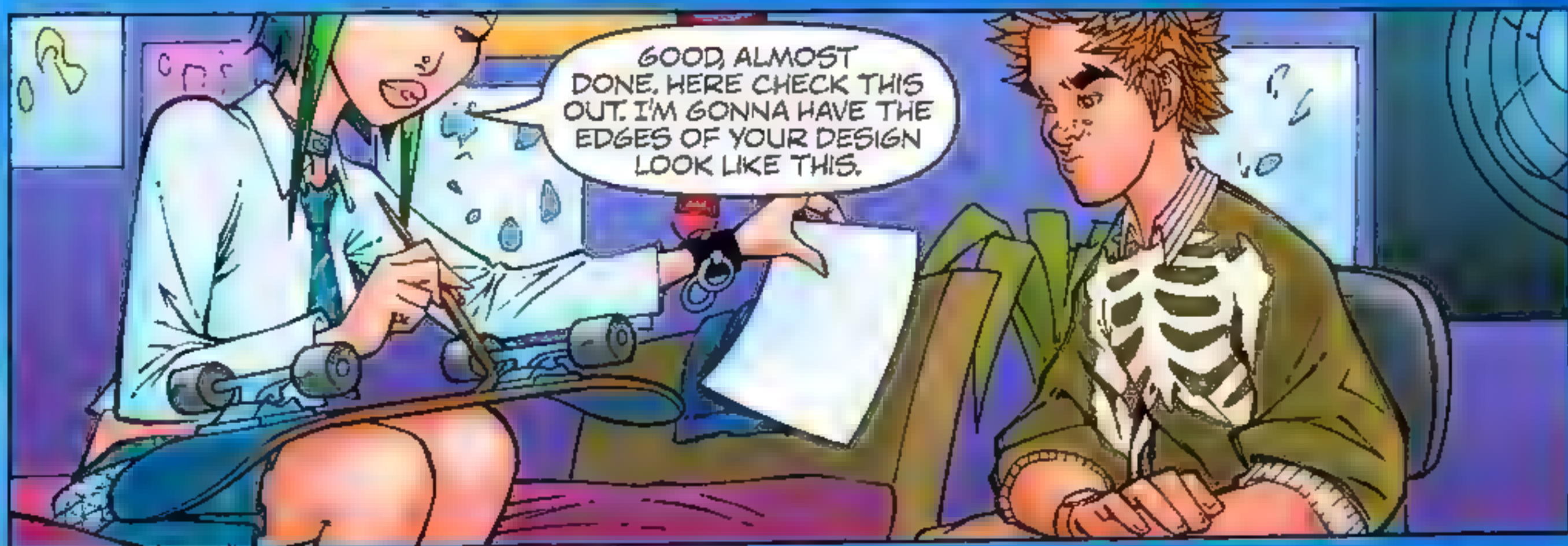
I KNOW
WHATCHA
MEAN KID.

YOU DO?

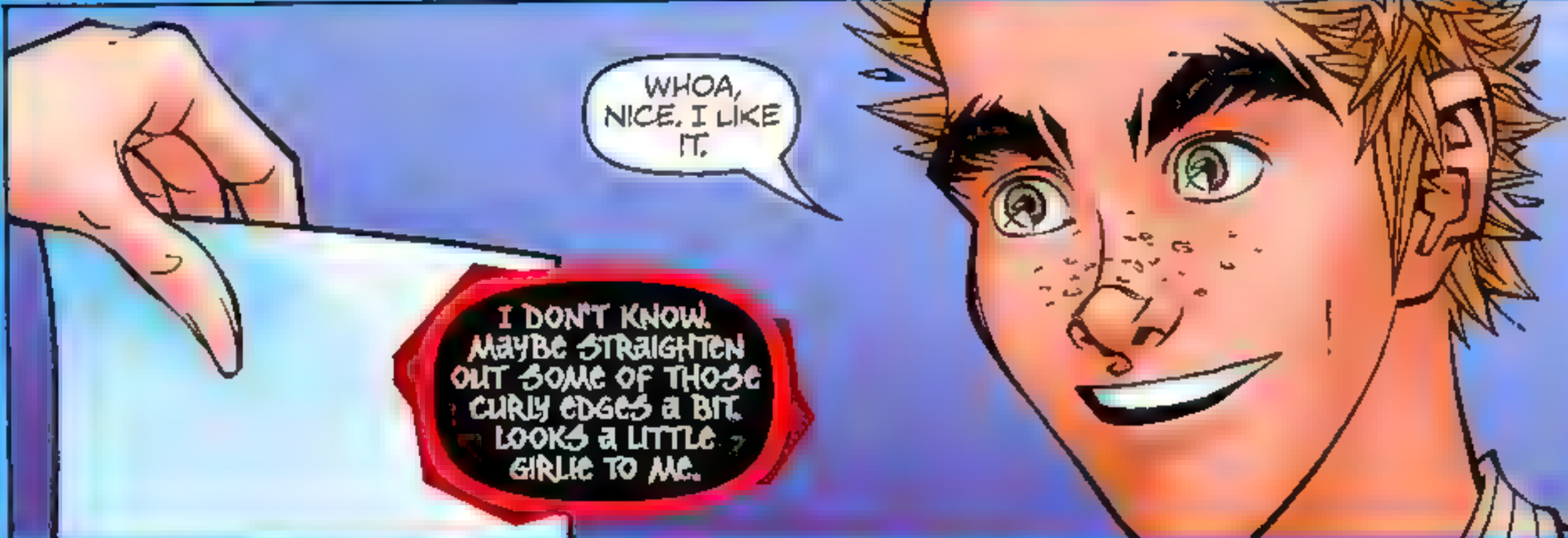
UM, DEV?

DO
WHAT?

OH, UH,
NOTHING. HOW'S
IT COMING?



GOOD, ALMOST DONE. HERE CHECK THIS OUT. I'M GONNA HAVE THE EDGES OF YOUR DESIGN LOOK LIKE THIS.



WHOA, NICE. I LIKE IT.

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE STRAIGHTEN OUT SOME OF THOSE CURLY EDGES A BIT. LOOKS A LITTLE GIRLIE TO ME.



IT LOOKS GIRLIE?

YOUR REP DUDE. MAN, THIS THING SURE IS MAKING ME FEEL STRANGE.

GOODNESS, DEV. THIS IS REALLY NOT GOOD.

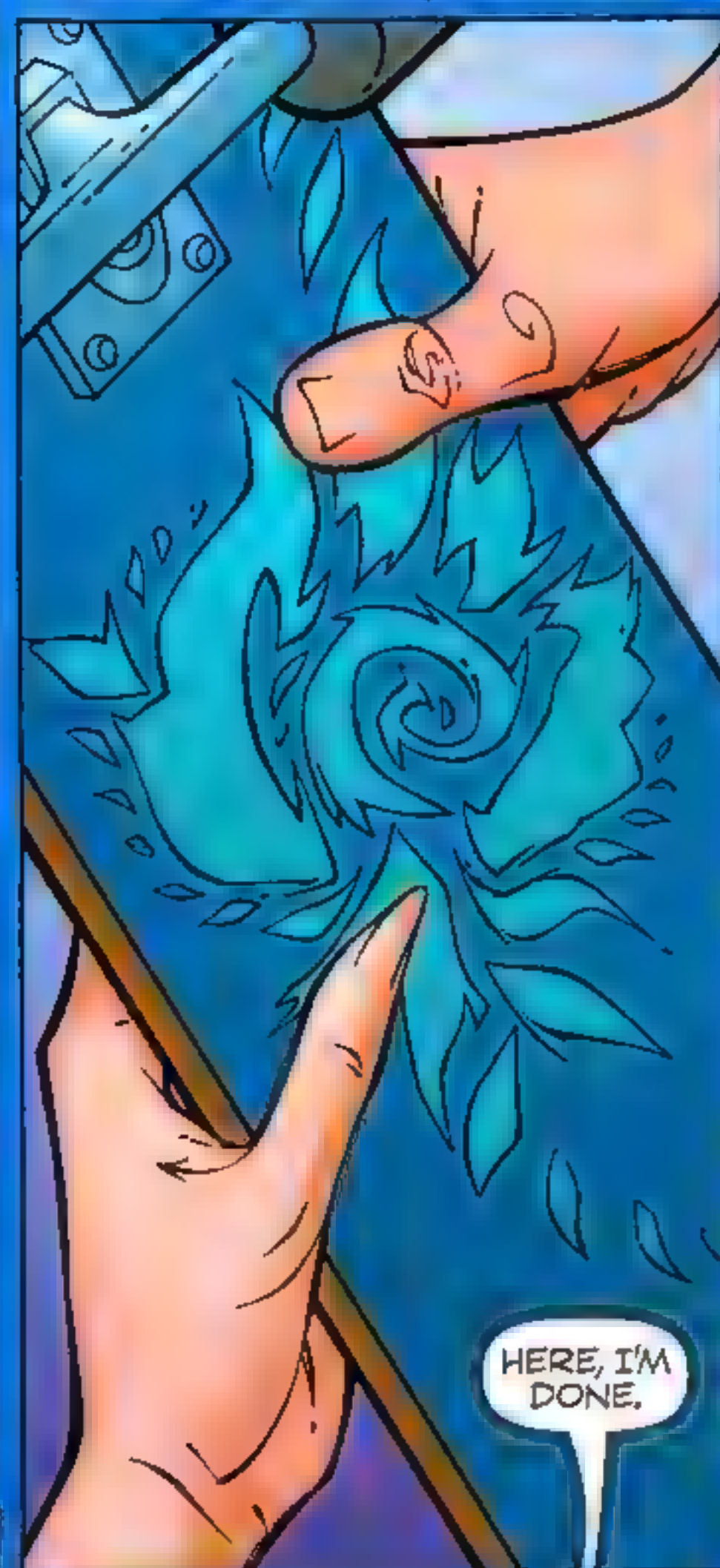


WHAT'S NOT GOOD? WHY ARE YOU FEELING STRANGE?

ANSWER ME! WILL THE TWO OF YOU JUST ANSWER ME!?!



THEO, IT'S JUST ME. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES HERE AND YOU DIDN'T ASK ME ANYTHING. WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU'RE THE ONE ACTING STRANGE. AND BY THE WAY, I DON'T THINK YOUR SKATEBOARD LOOKS GIRLIE.

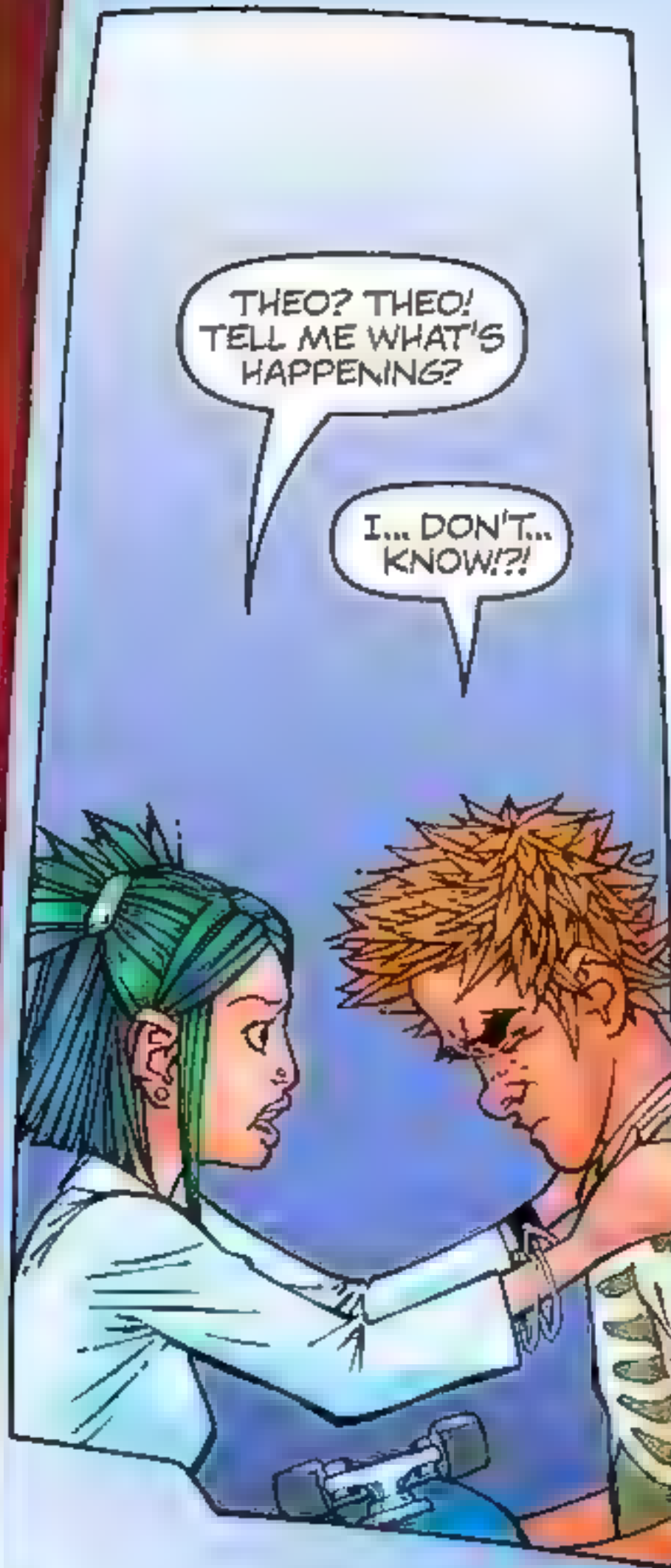


HERE, I'M DONE.



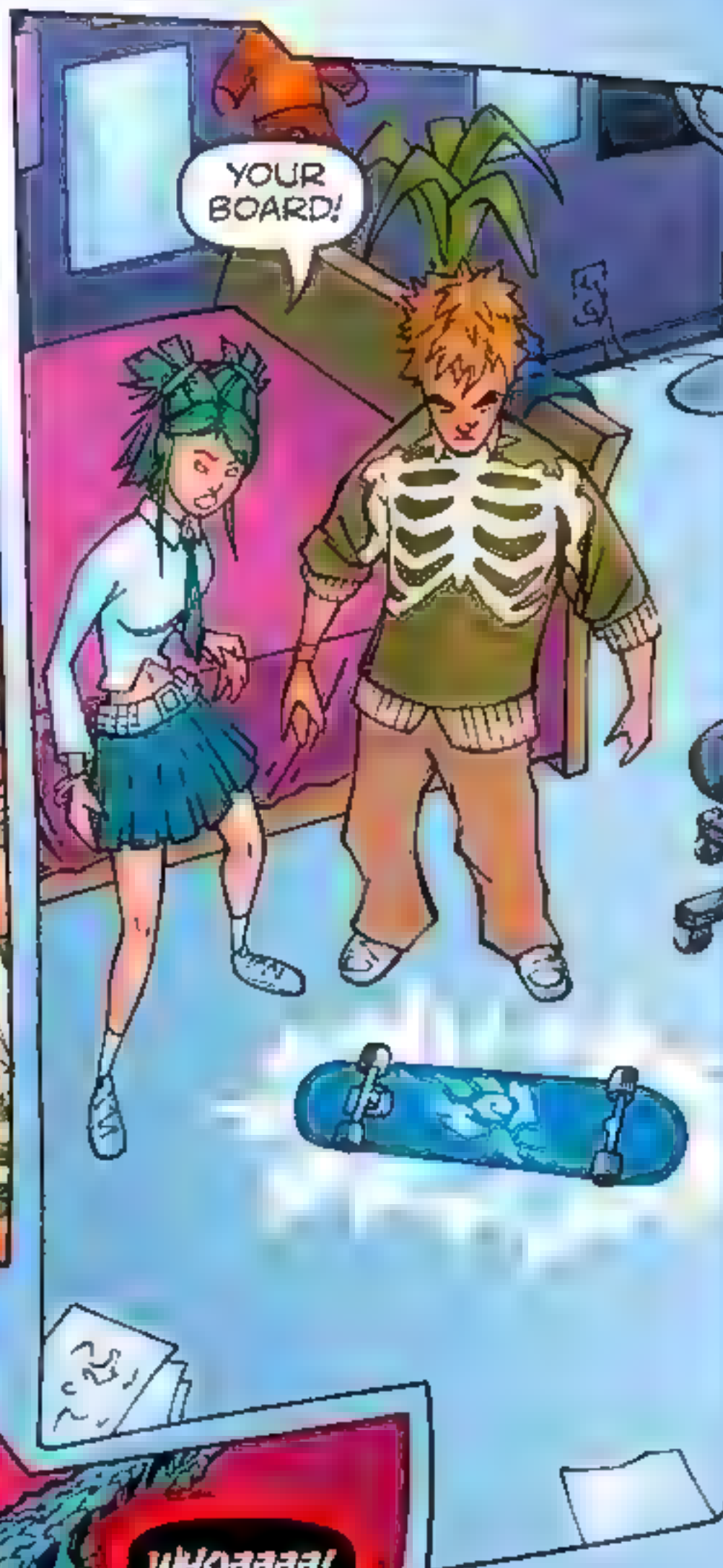
IT'S... IT'S
REALLY GR...
GREAT, KIORI!

UNGH, MY
HEAD'S K... K...
KILLIN' ME. AND MY
SHOULDER FEELS
REALLY... HEAVY!

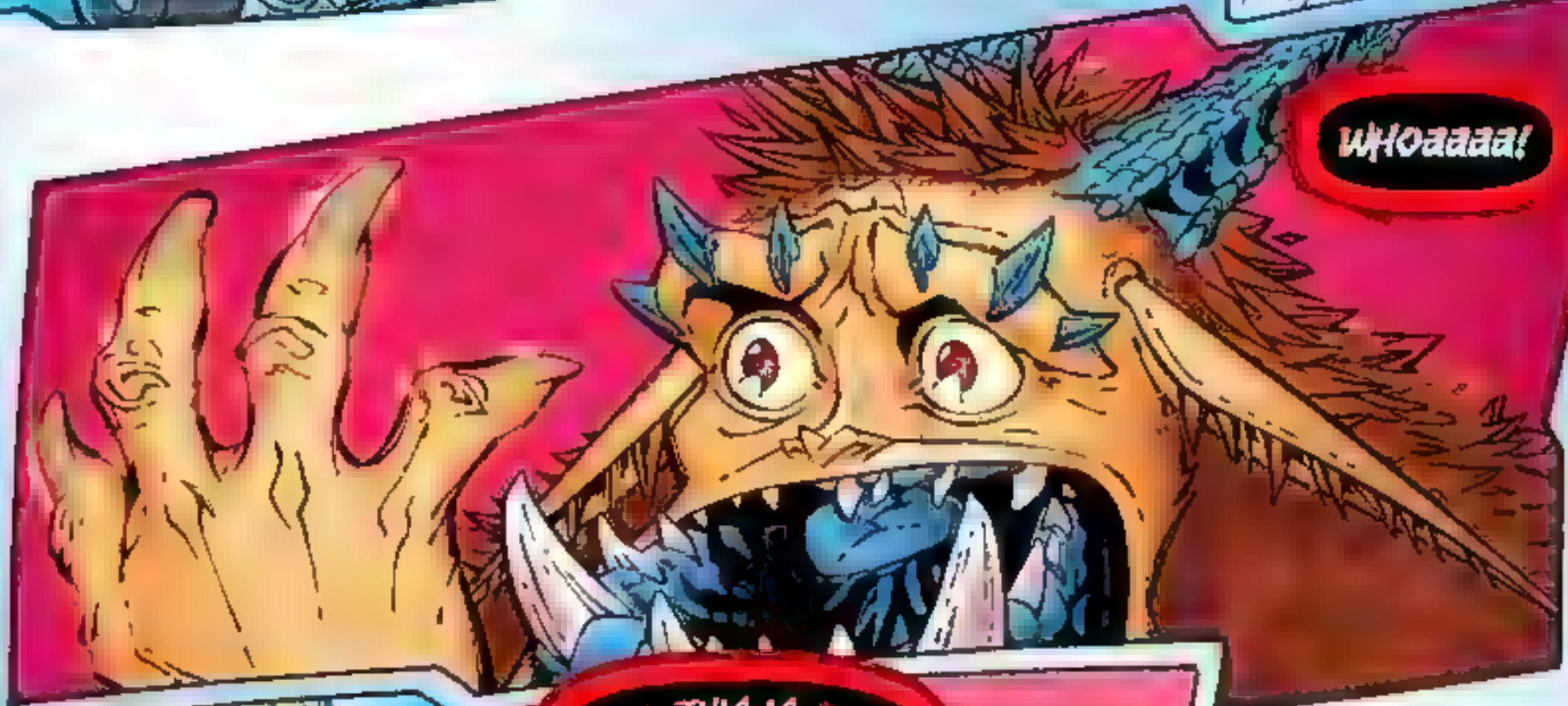


THEO? THEO!
TELL ME WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

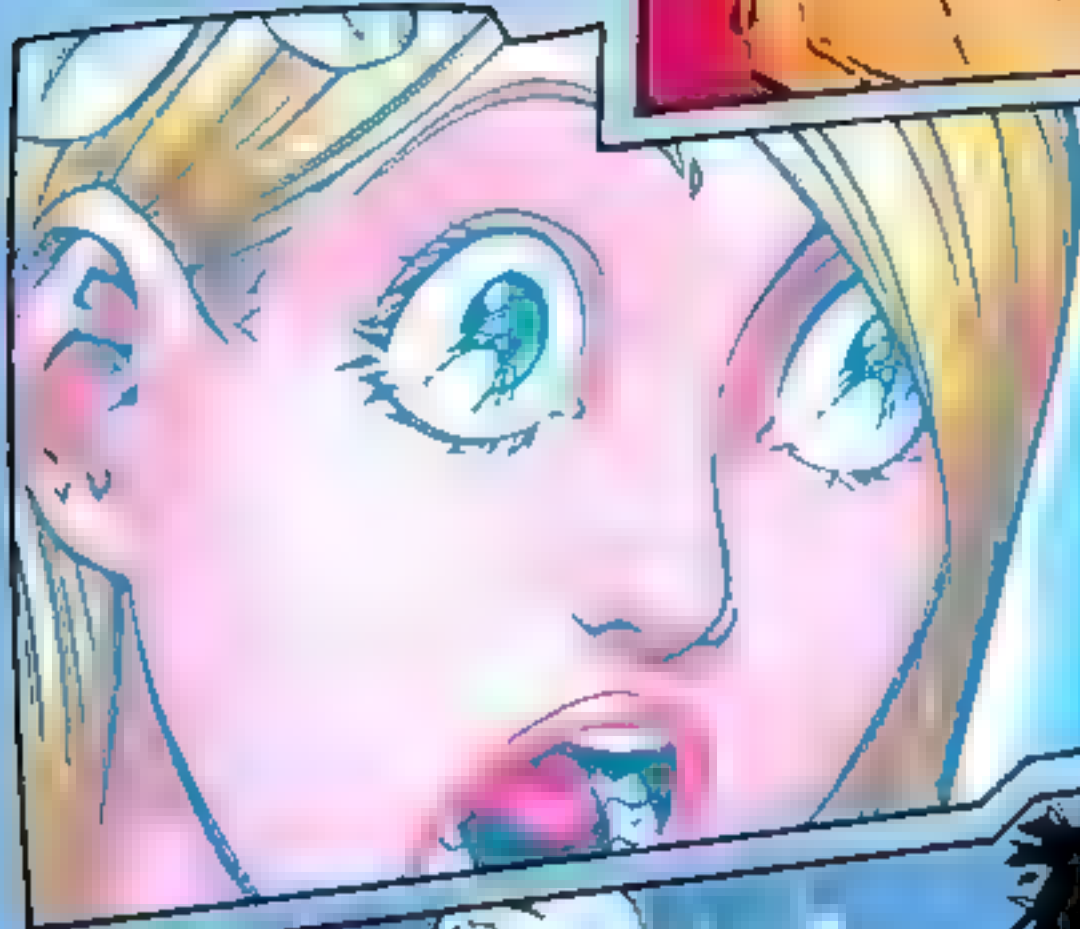
I... DON'T...
KNOW!?!



YOUR
BOARD!

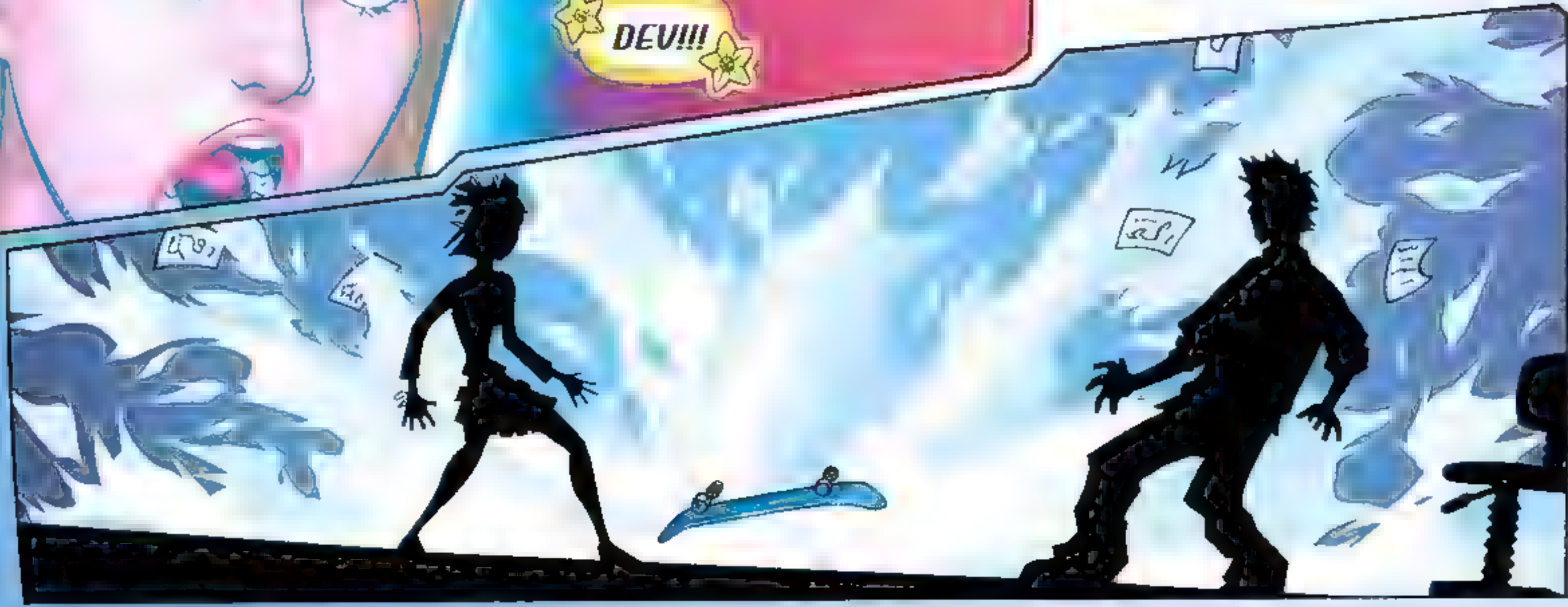


Whoaaaa!



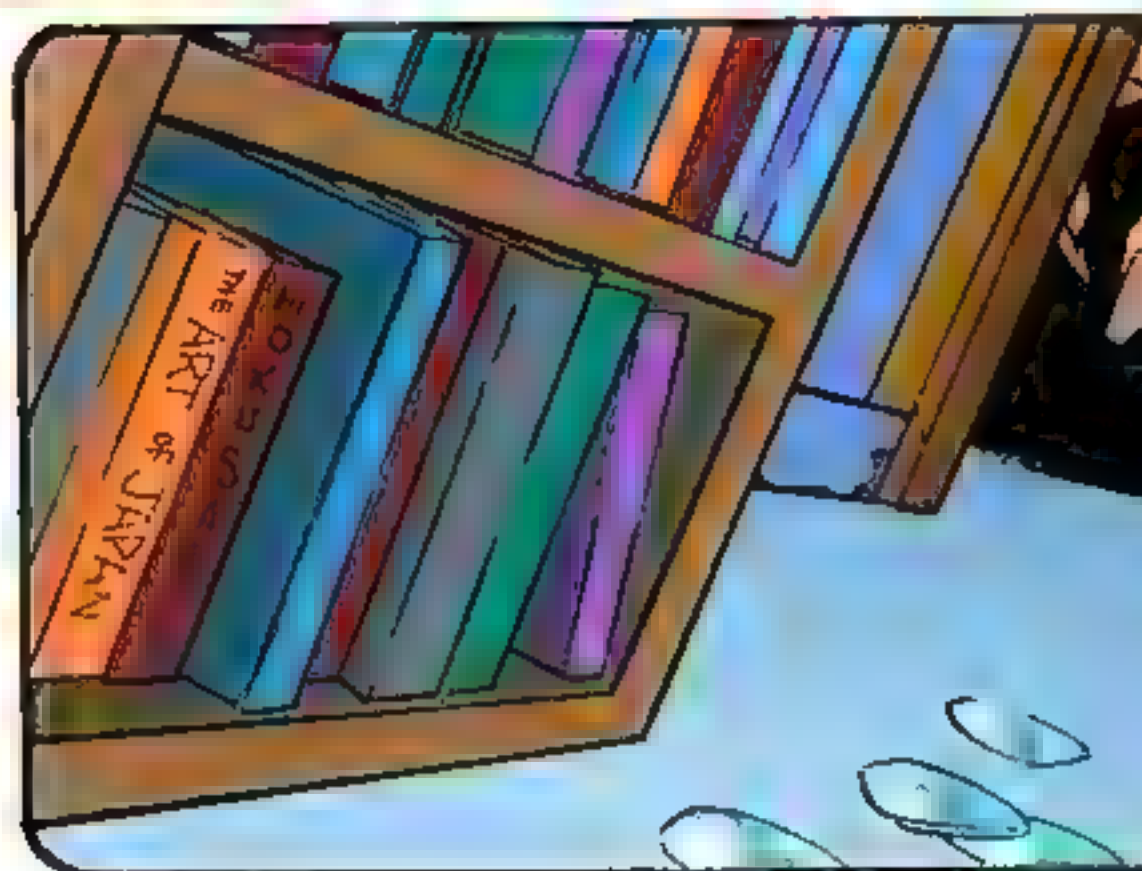
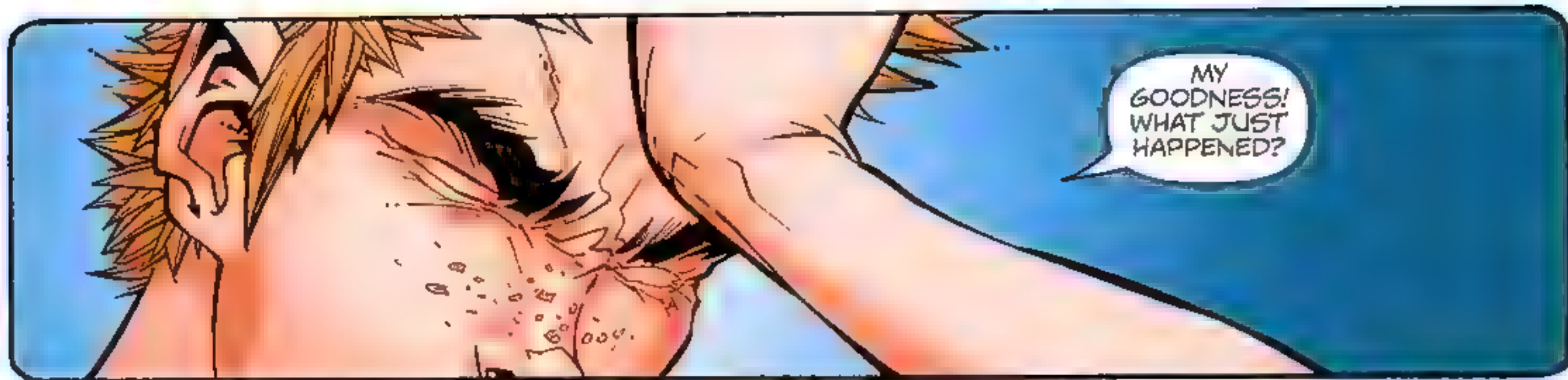
THIS IS
GETTING COMPLETELY
INSANE! I FEEL SO
WEIRD.

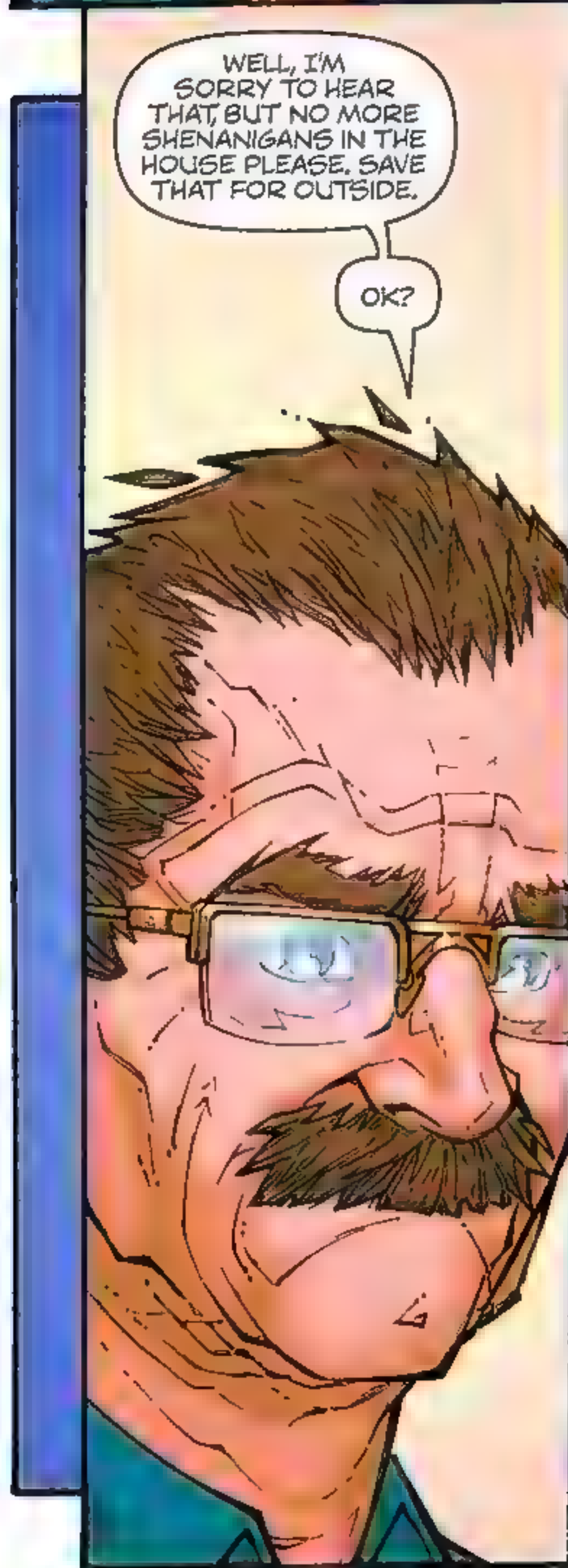
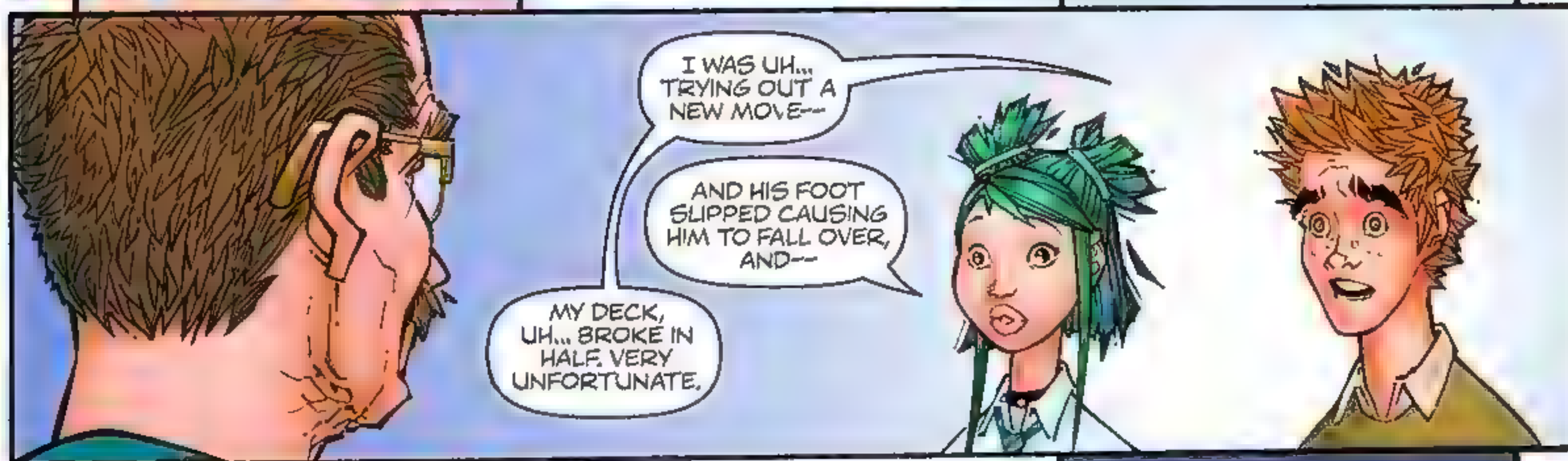
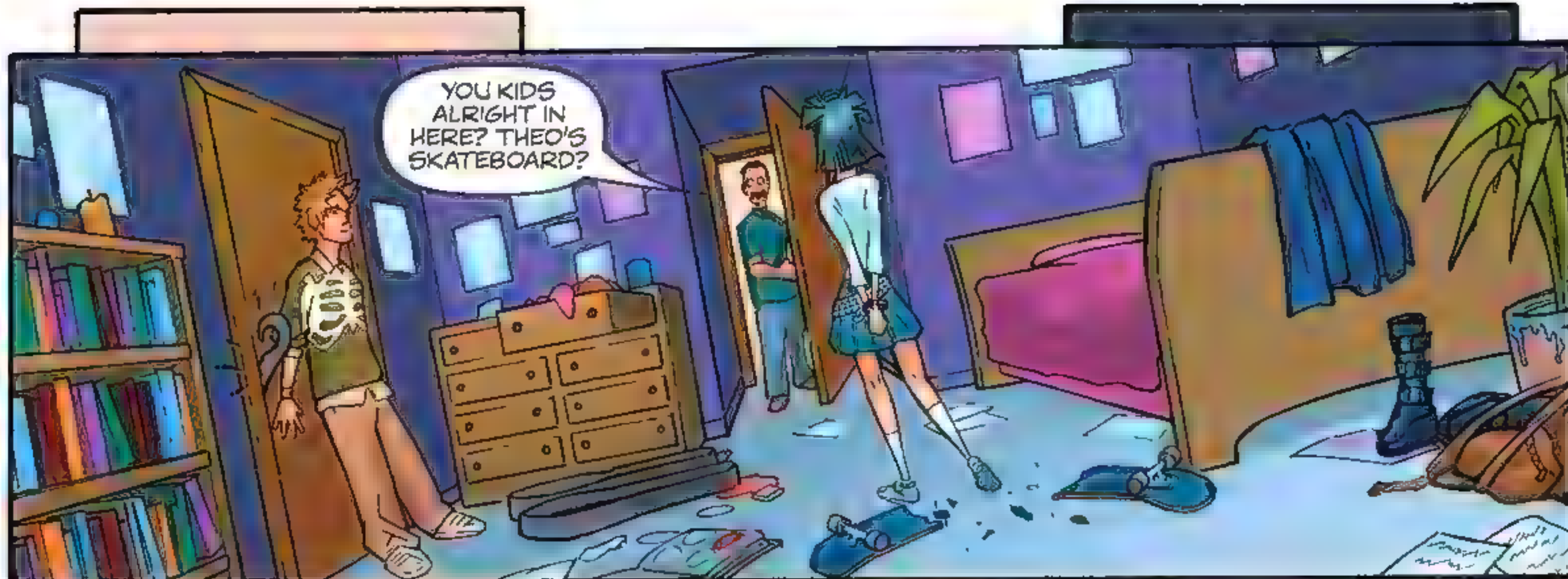
DEV!!!





RRraaaaGGGHHHH!!

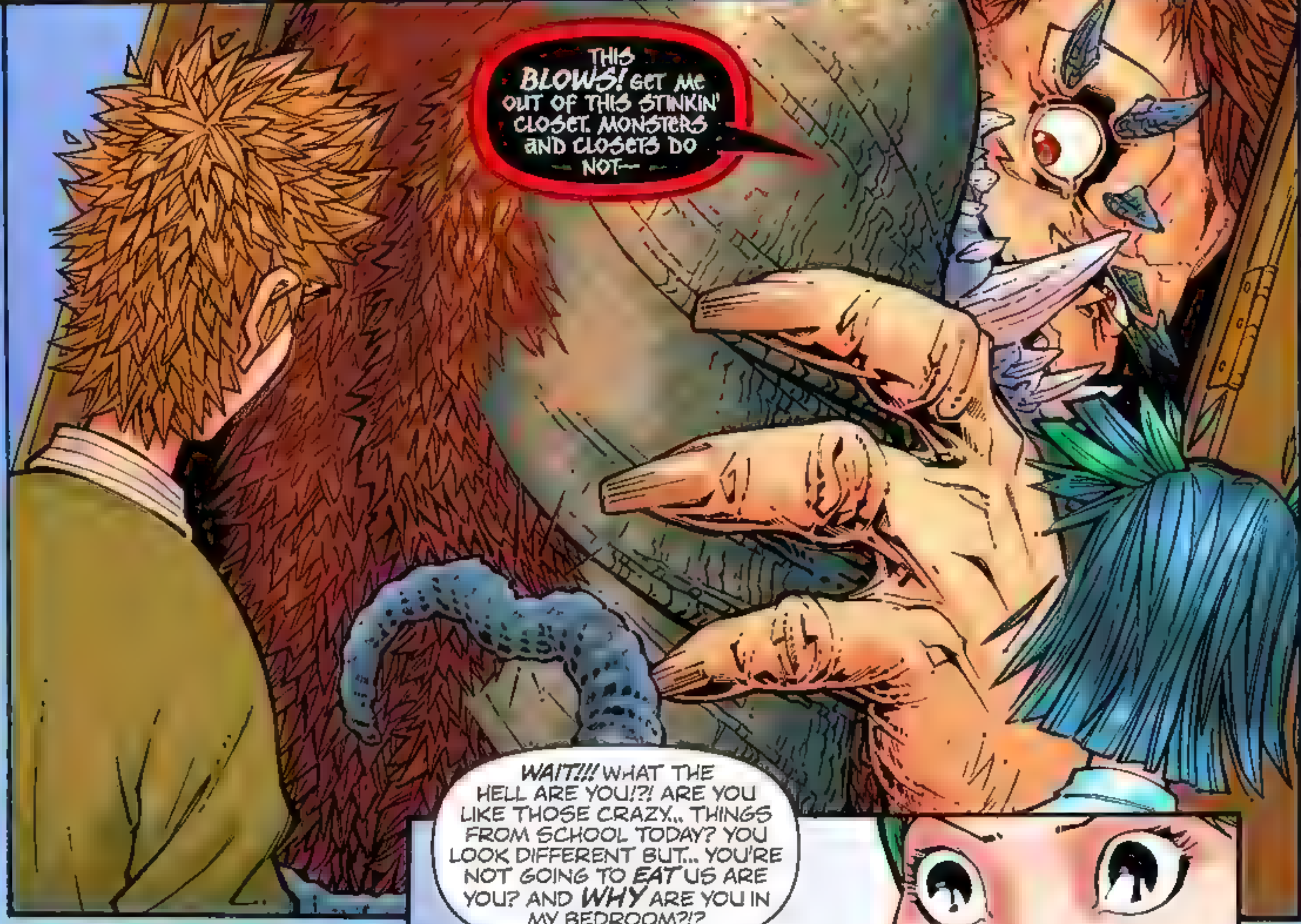






WHEW. THAT WAS A LITTLE TOO CLOSE.

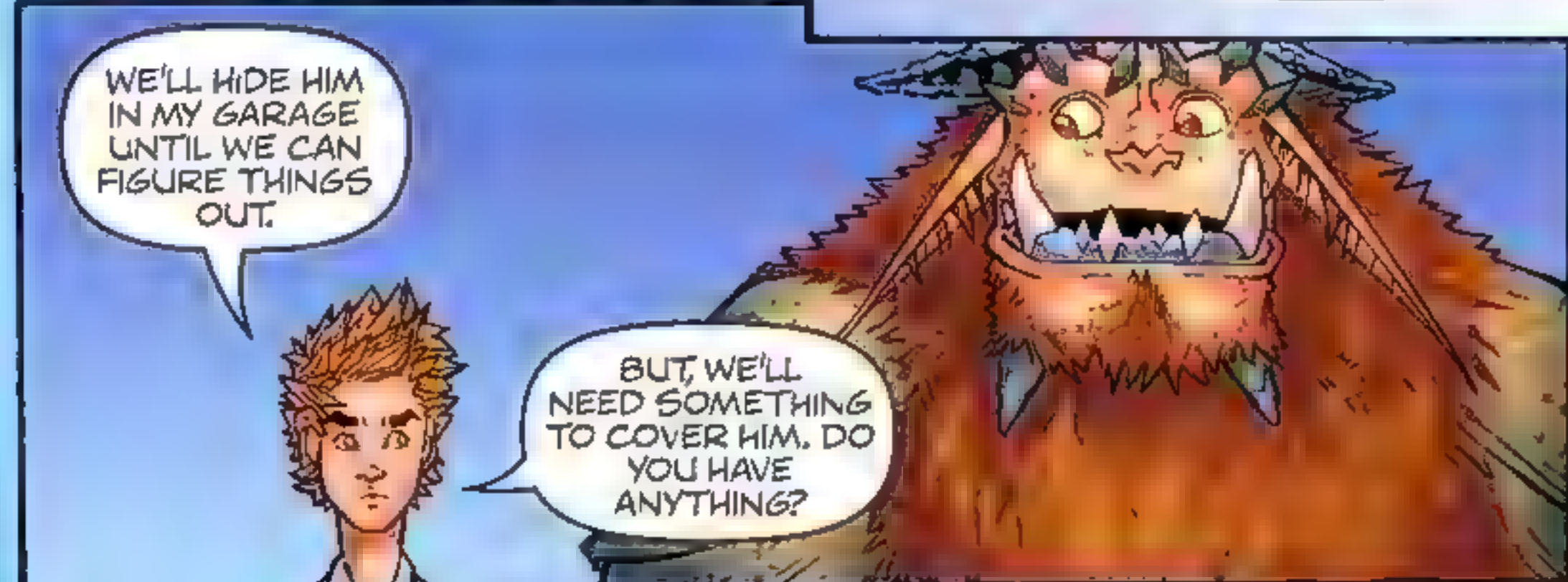
YEAH.



THIS BLOWS! GET ME OUT OF THIS STINKIN' CLOSET. MONSTERS AND CLOSETS DO NOT--

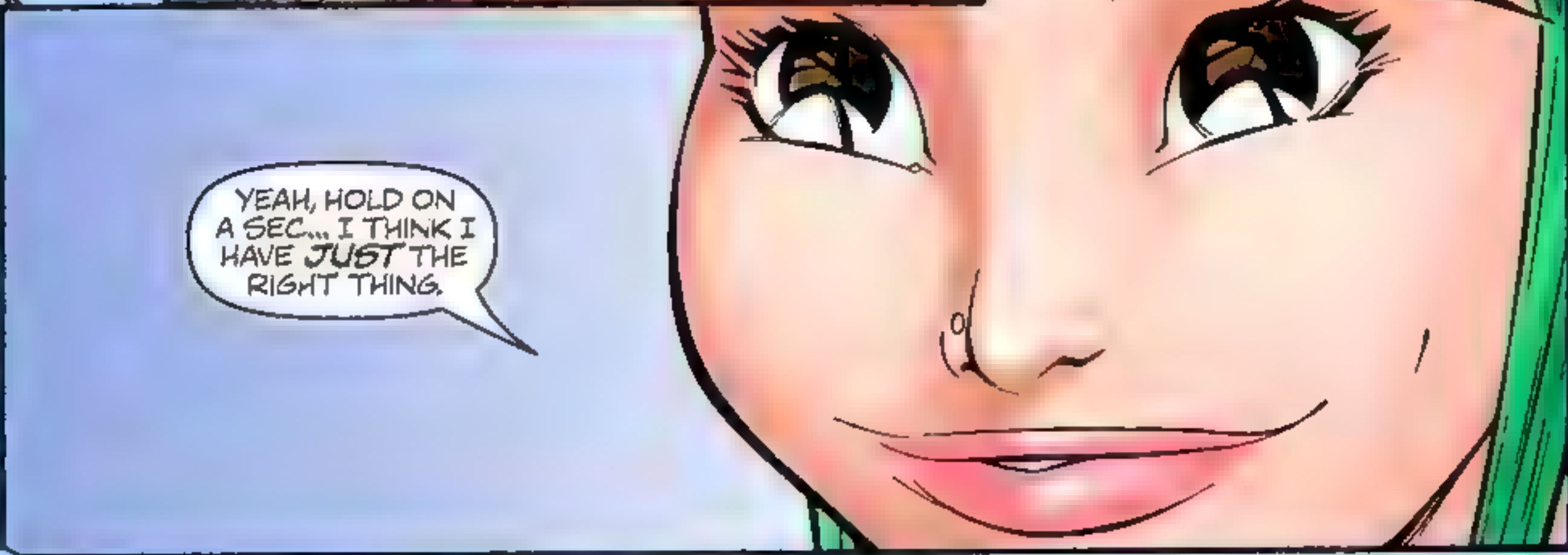
WAIT!!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU!?! ARE YOU LIKE THOSE CRAZY... THINGS FROM SCHOOL TODAY? YOU LOOK DIFFERENT BUT... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT US ARE YOU? AND *WHY* ARE YOU IN MY BEDROOM?!?

THEO, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. HE... THAT... IT... CANNOT STAY HERE.

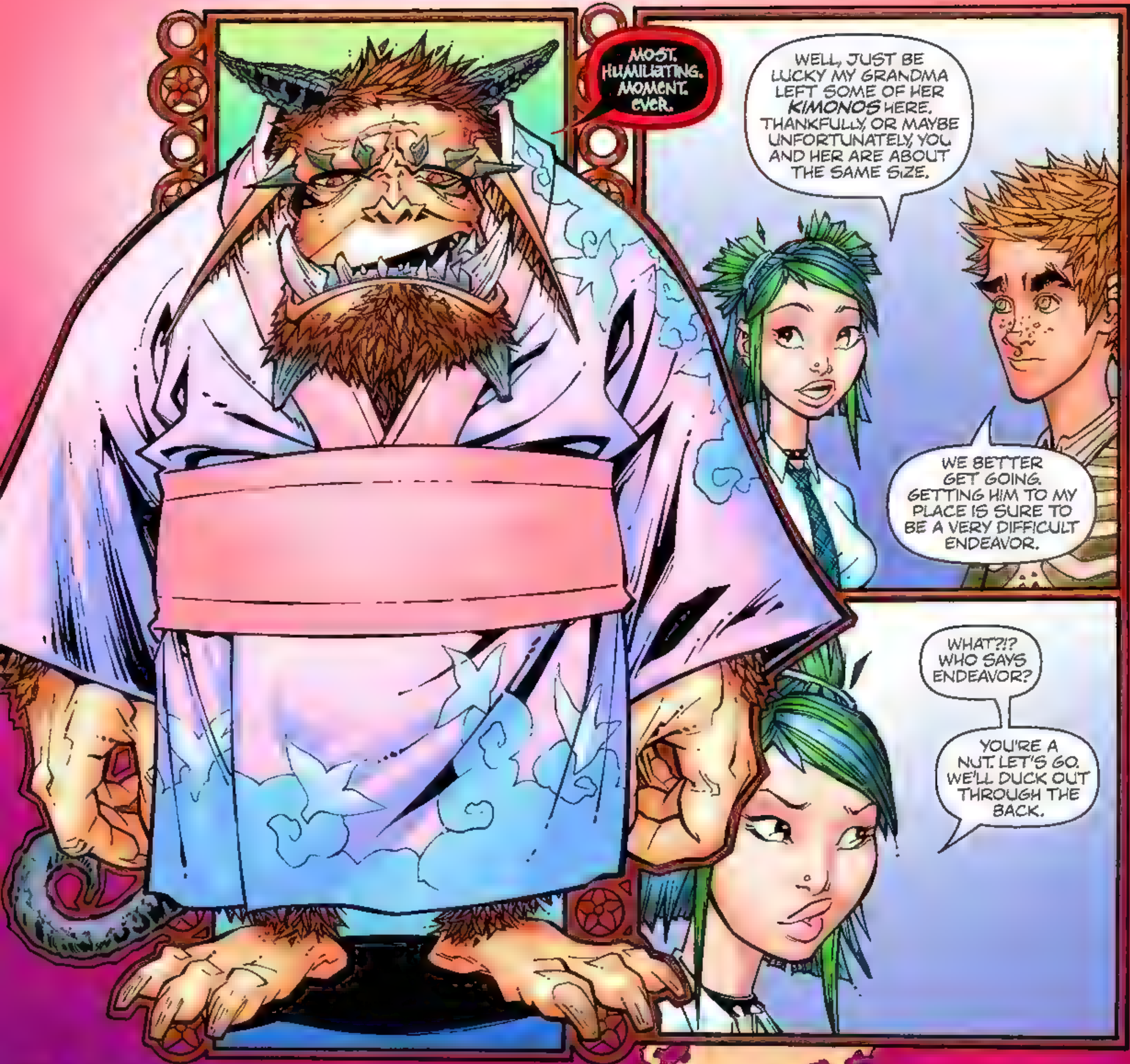


WE'LL HIDE HIM IN MY GARAGE UNTIL WE CAN FIGURE THINGS OUT.

BUT, WE'LL NEED SOMETHING TO COVER HIM. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING?



YEAH, HOLD ON A SEC... I THINK I HAVE *JUST* THE RIGHT THING.



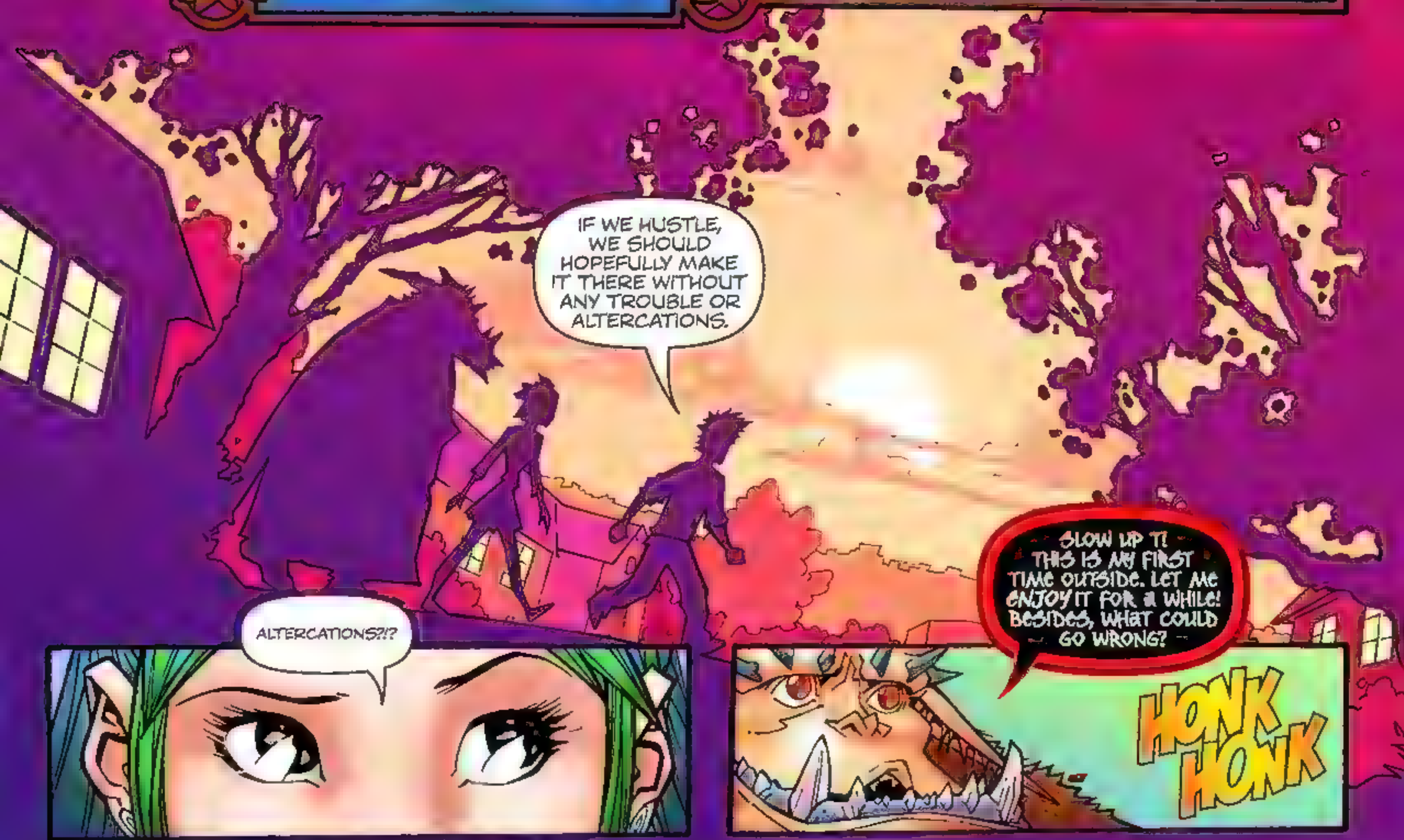
MOST
HUMILIATING
MOMENT
EVER.

WELL, JUST BE
LUCKY MY GRANDMA
LEFT SOME OF HER
KIMONOS HERE.
THANKFULLY, OR MAYBE
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU
AND HER ARE ABOUT
THE SAME SIZE.

WE BETTER
GET GOING.
GETTING HIM TO MY
PLACE IS SURE TO
BE A VERY DIFFICULT
ENDEAVOR.

WHAT?!?
WHO SAYS
ENDEAVOR?

YOU'RE A
NUT. LET'S GO.
WE'LL DUCK OUT
THROUGH THE
BACK.

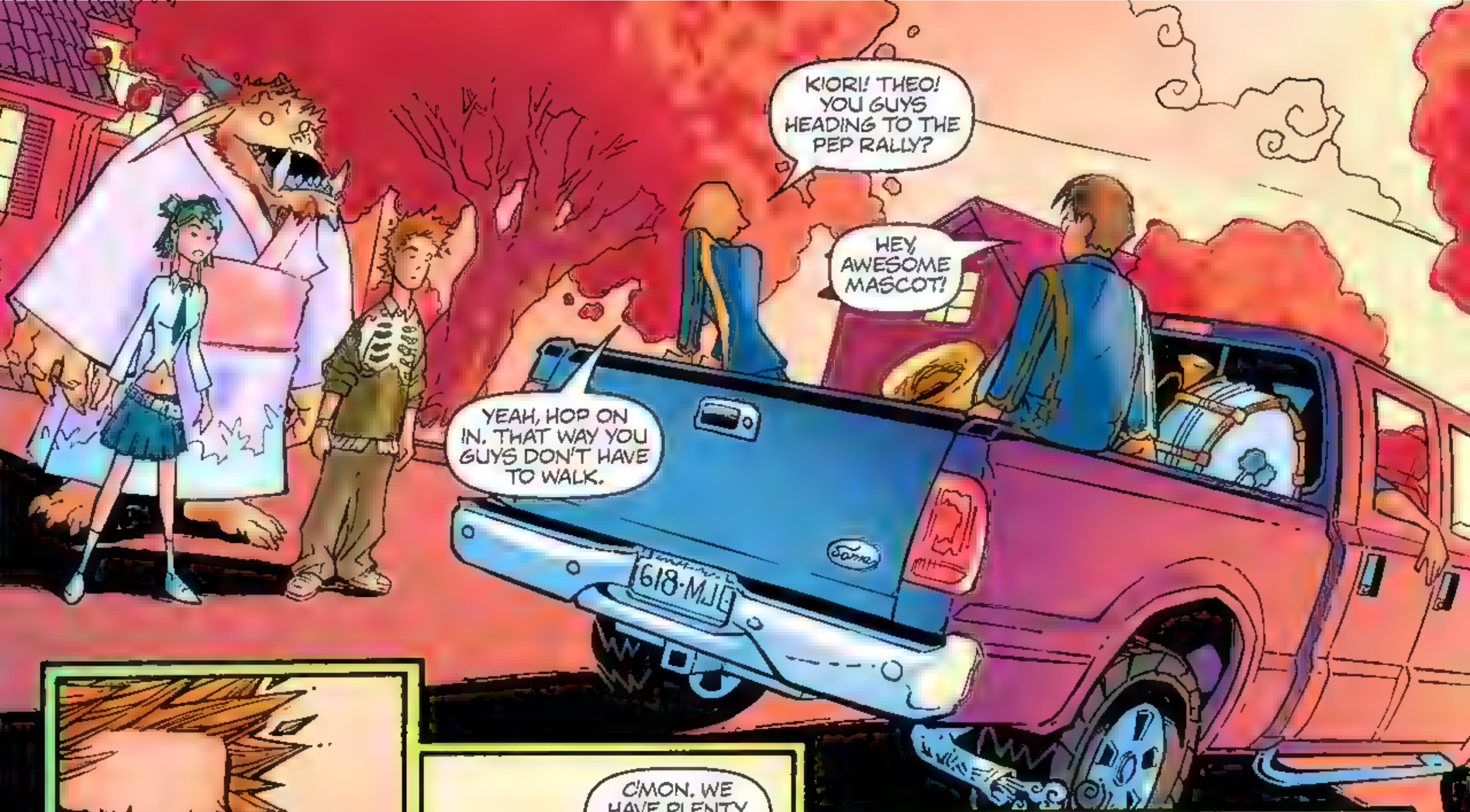


IF WE HUSTLE,
WE SHOULD
HOPEFULLY MAKE
IT THERE WITHOUT
ANY TROUBLE OR
ALTERCATIONS.

ALTERCATIONS?!?

SLOW UP T! -
THIS IS MY FIRST
TIME OUTSIDE. LET ME
ENJOY IT FOR A WHILE!
BESIDES, WHAT COULD
GO WRONG?

HONK
HONK



NO THANK YOU, WE CAN JUST MEET YOU GUYS THERE.

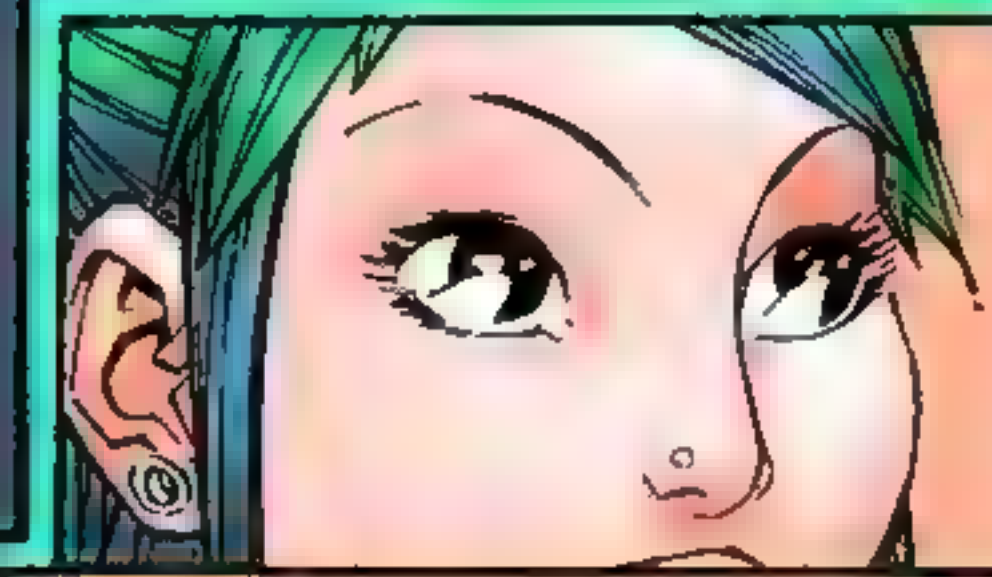


PLUS, THAT COSTUME MUST BE GETTING PRETTY TOASTY.

C'MON. WE HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM BACK HERE.

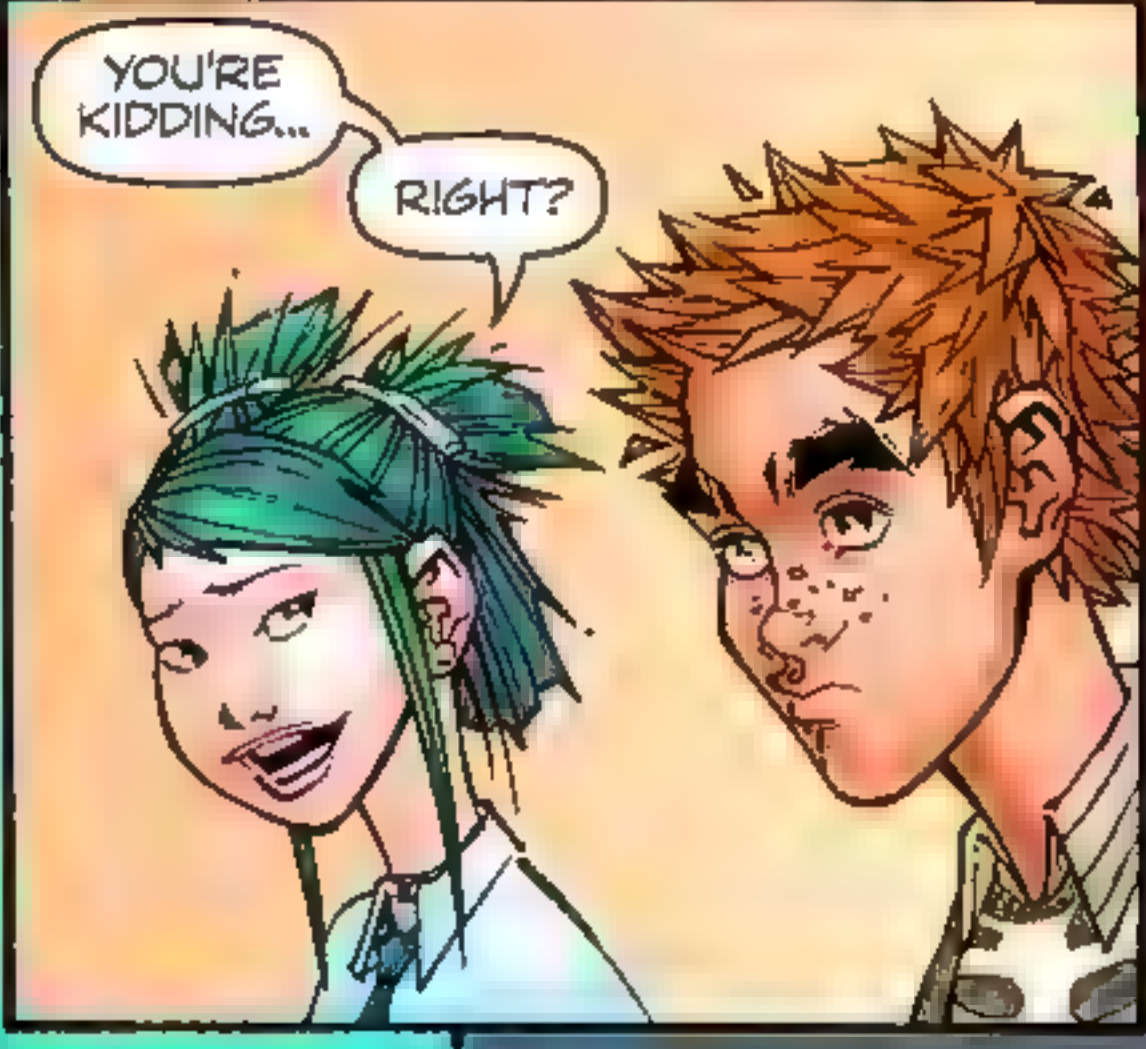
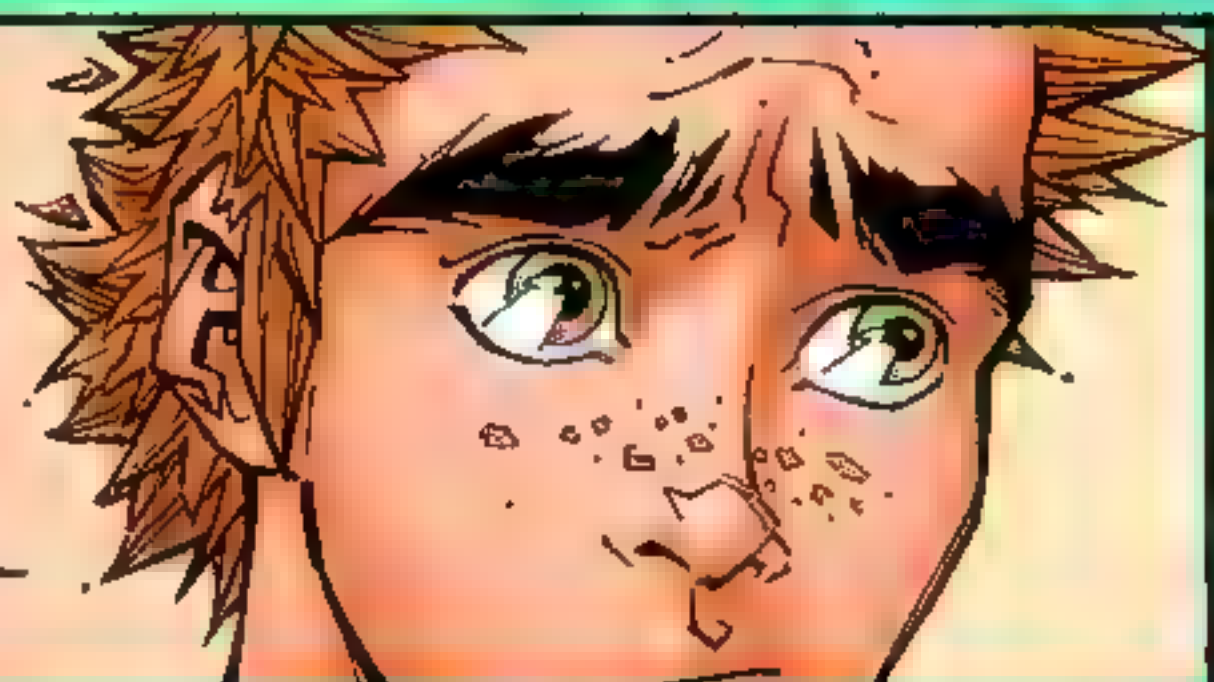


SOUNDS GREAT TO ME!!



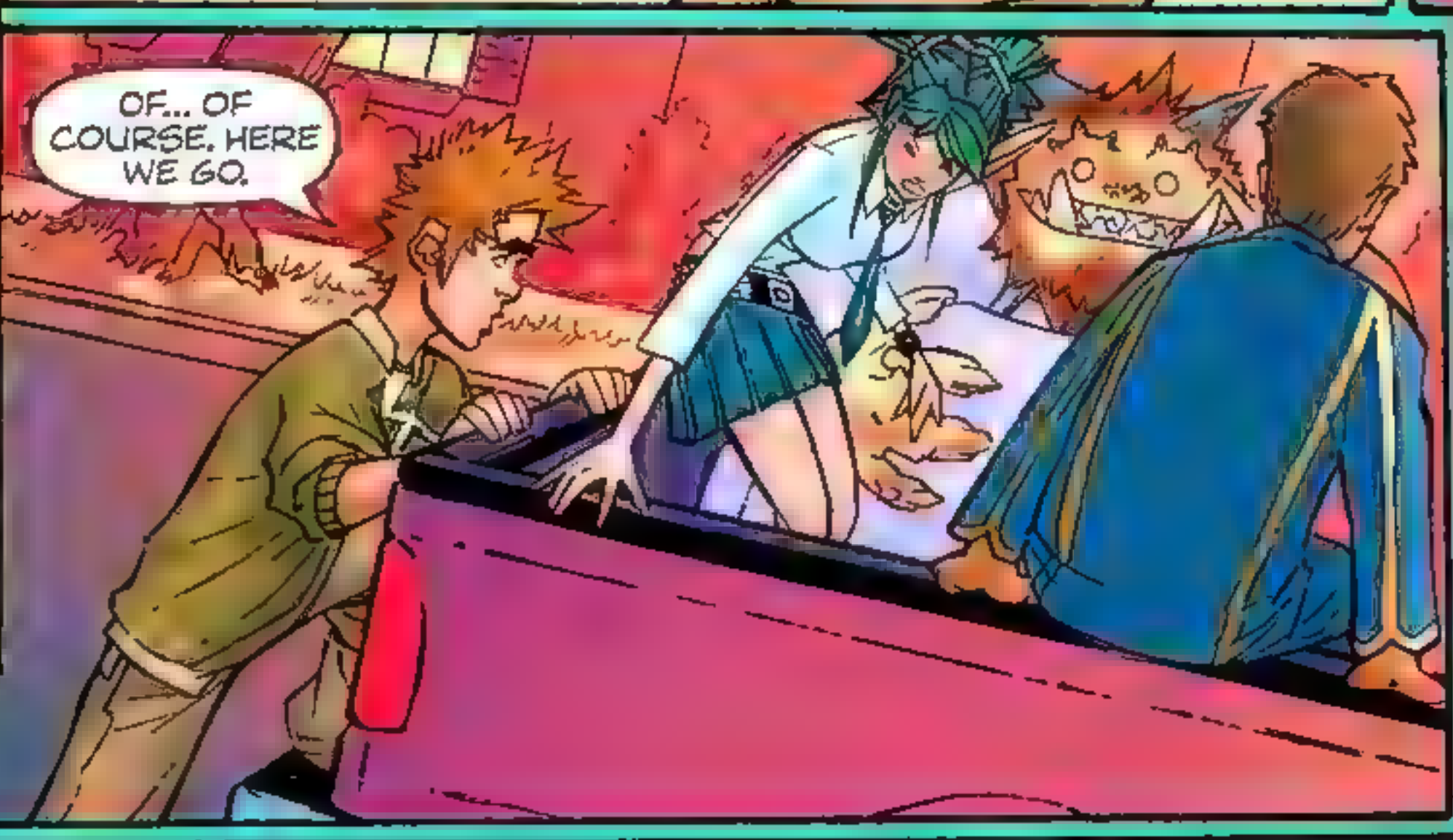
OK THEN.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS. NO SAFETY RESTRAINING HARNESSSES... UM, SEATBELTS, ARE PROVIDED BACK THERE.

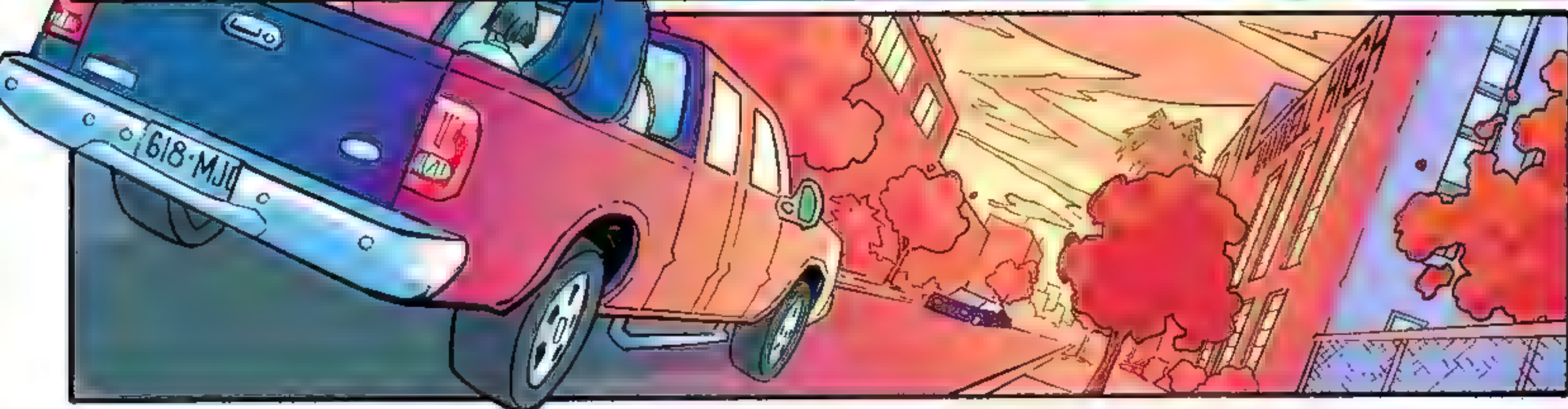
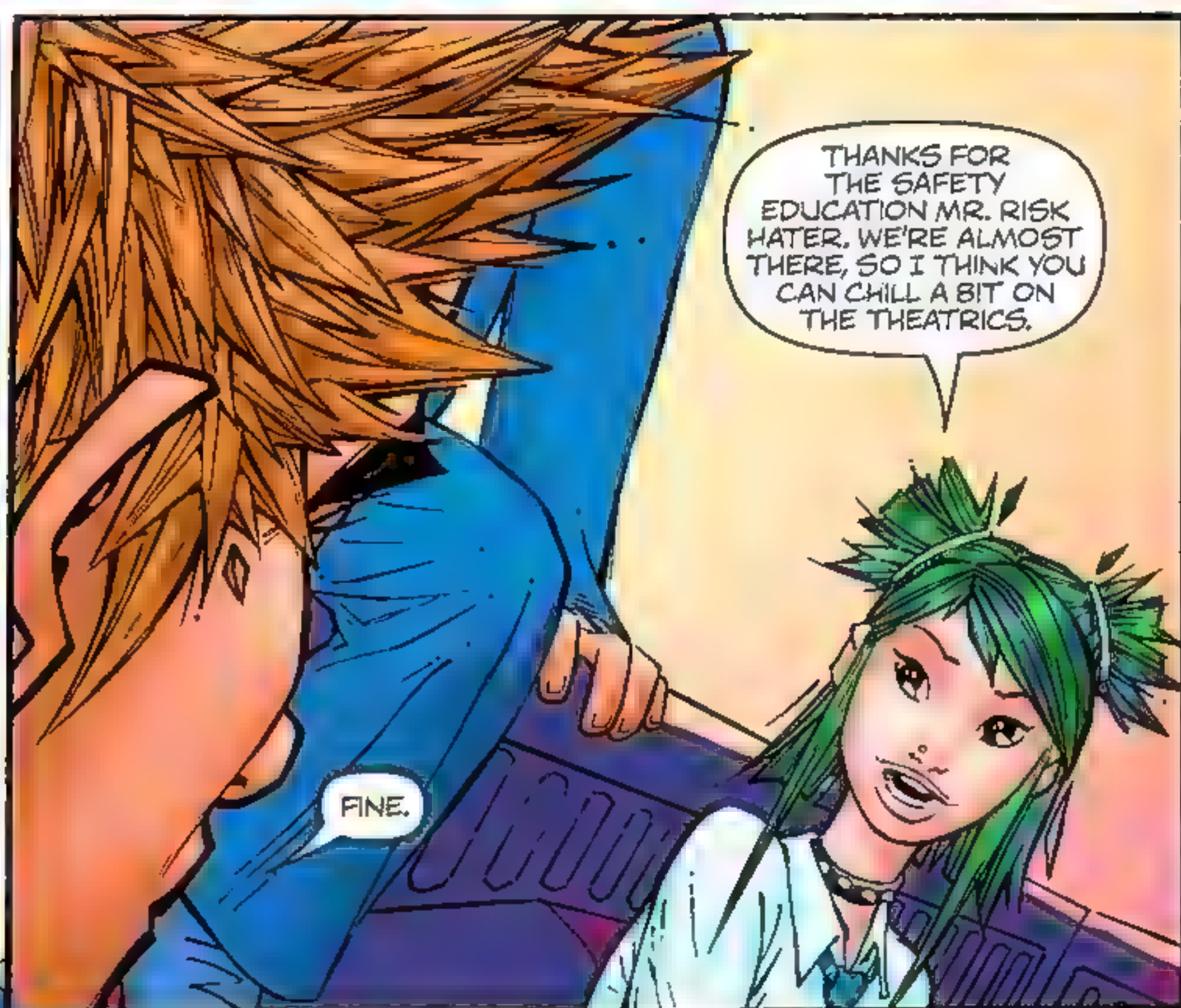
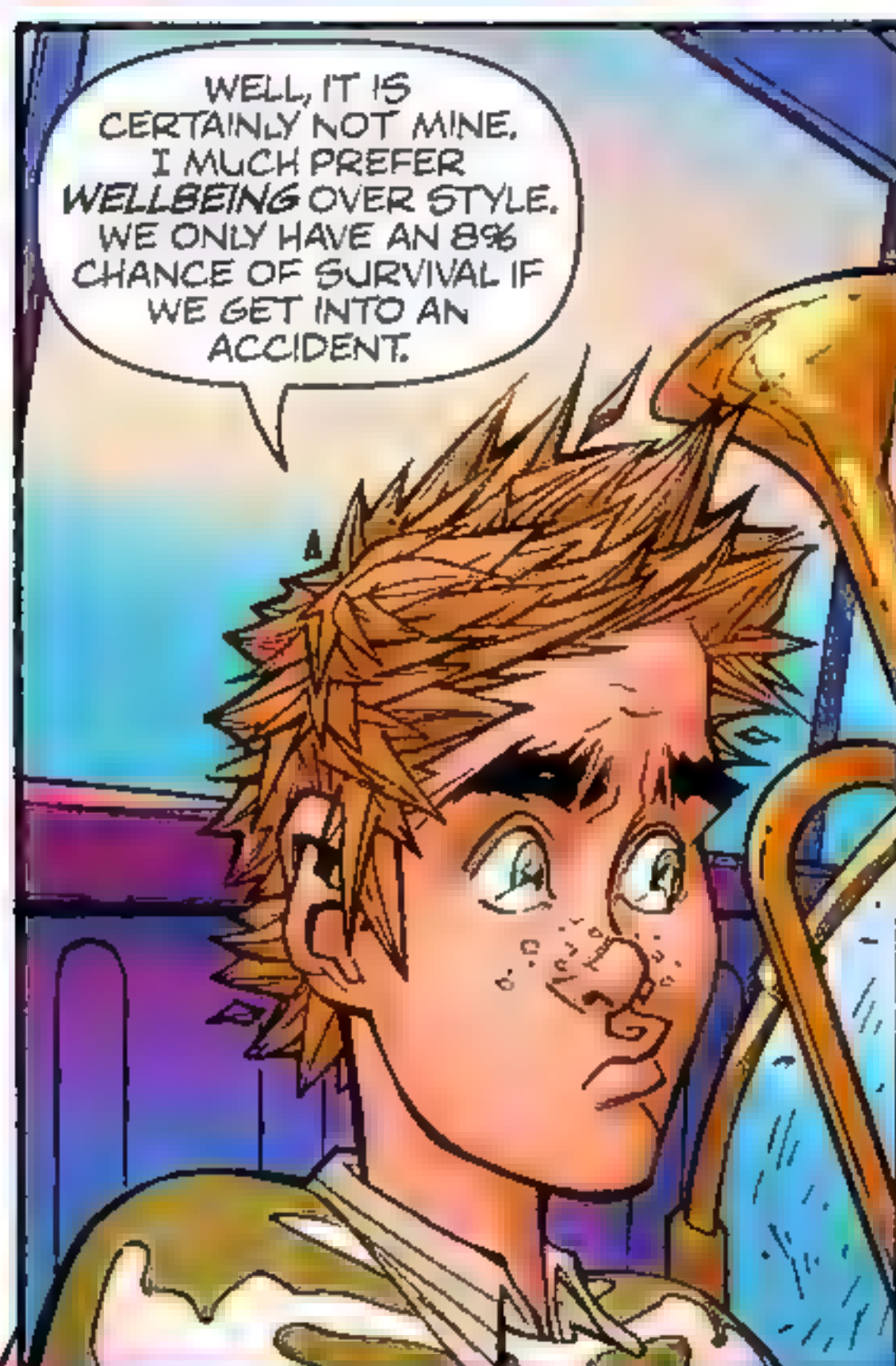
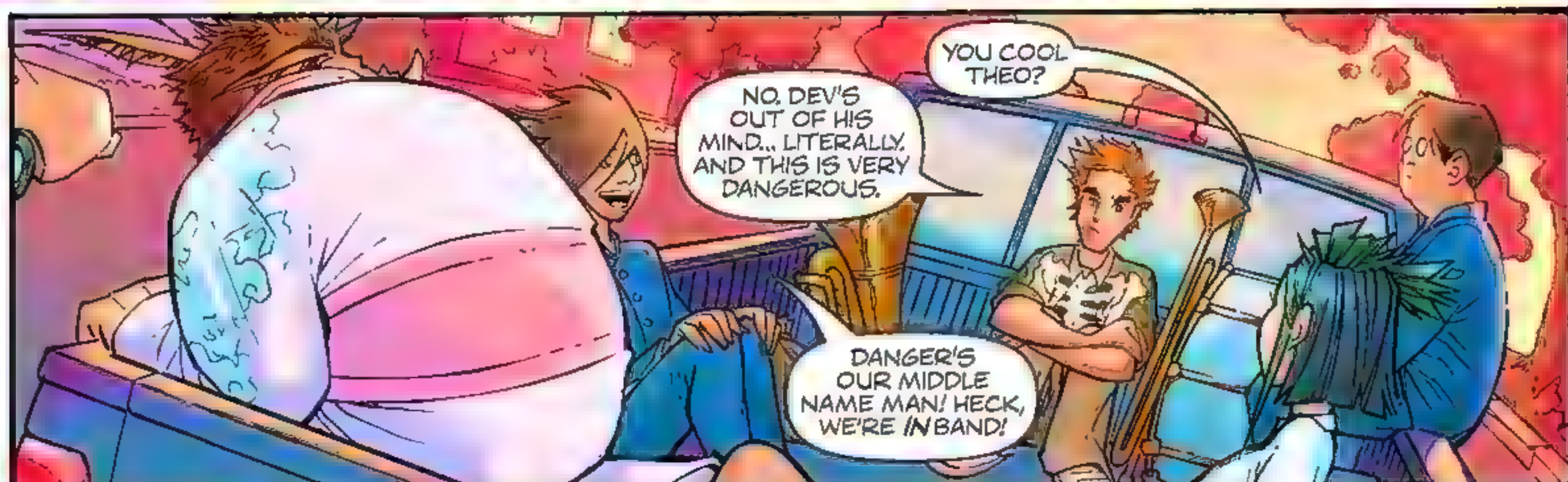


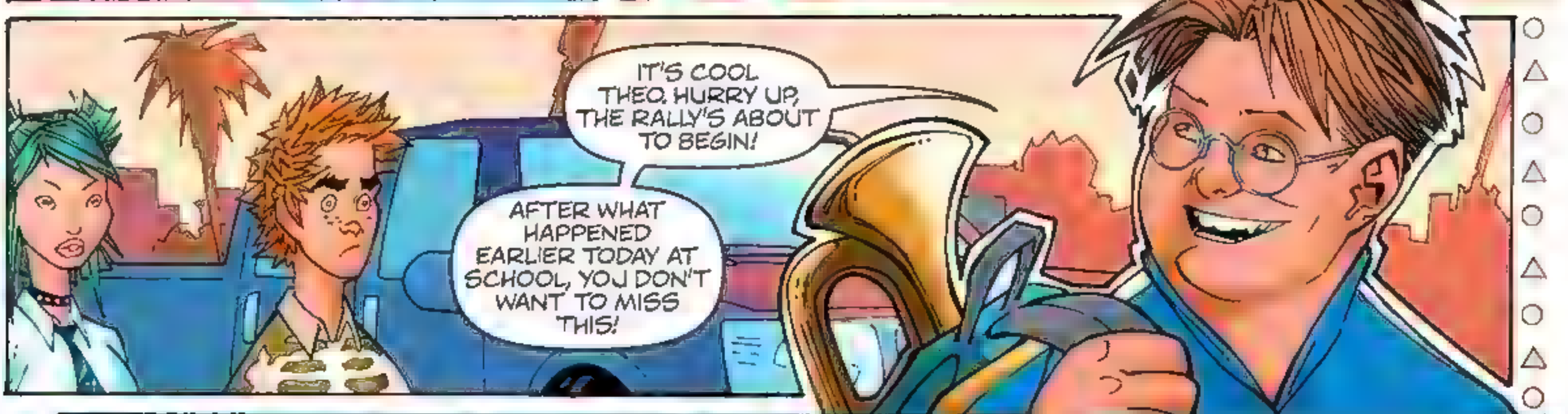
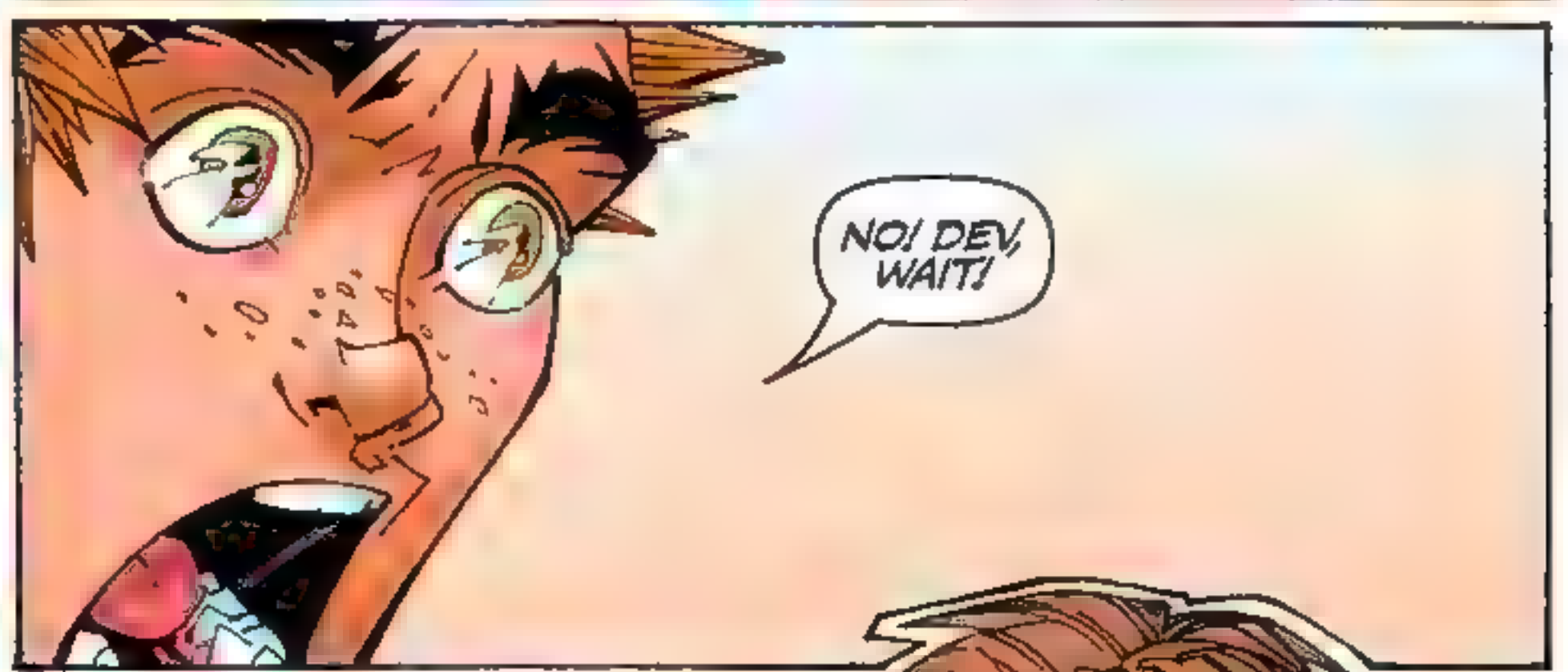
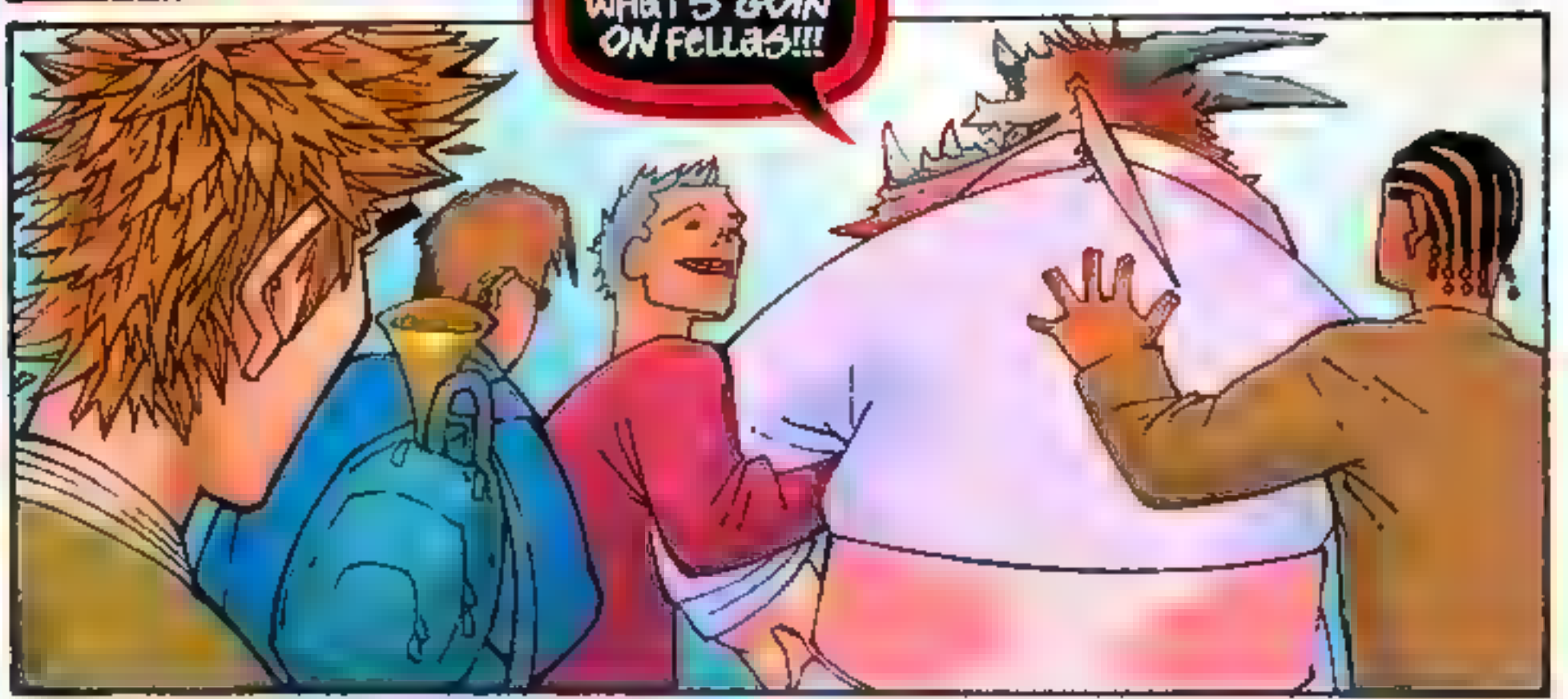
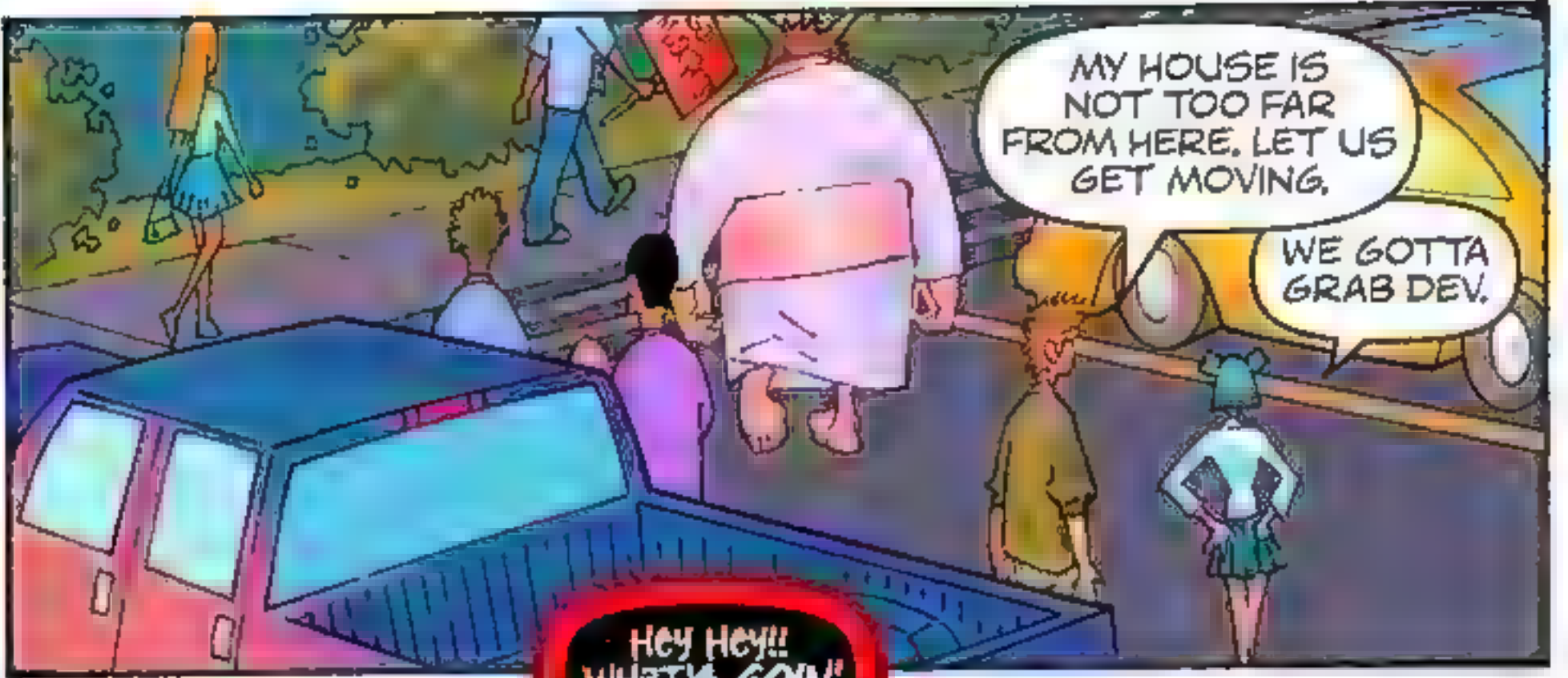
YOU'RE KIDDING...

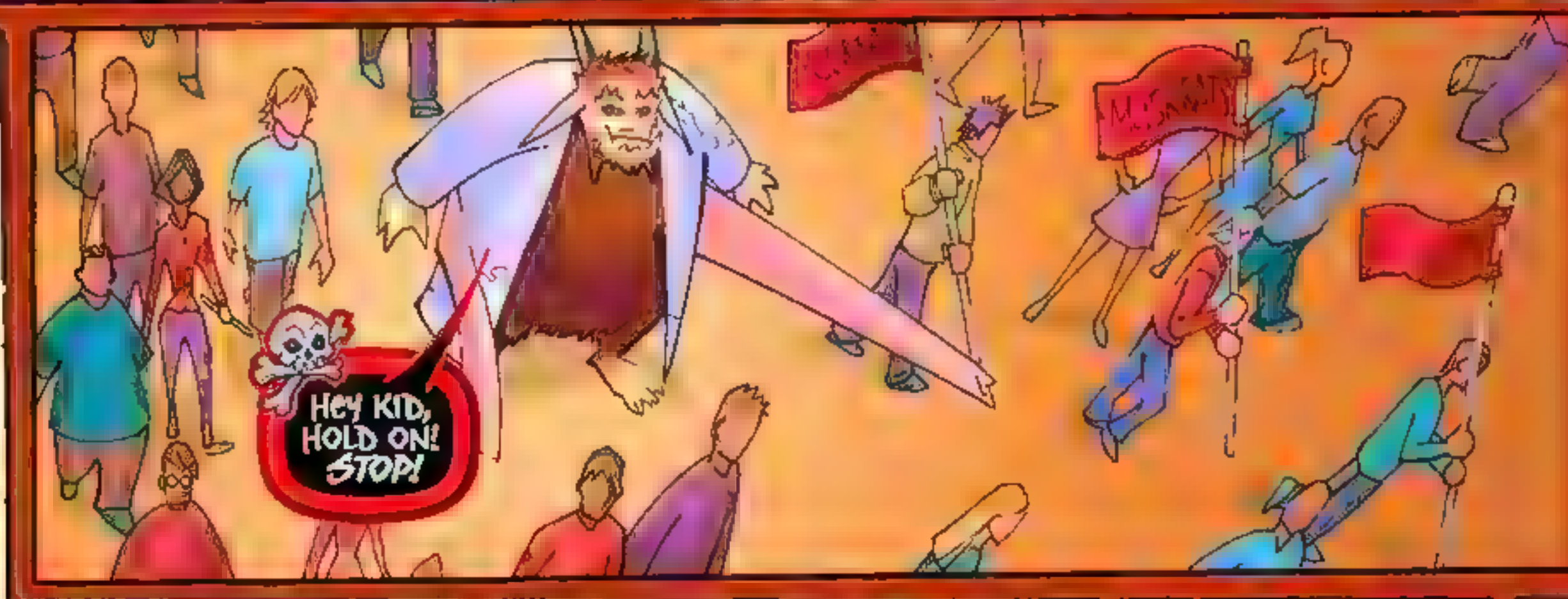
RIGHT?



OF... OF COURSE, HERE WE GO.







TO BE CONTINUED...

ASPEN
Vol. 1

#4
OF 8
COVER A

SHAPED



MICHAEL
2006
GORDER

ASPEN
Vol. 1

#4
OF 8
COVER B

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Vol. 1

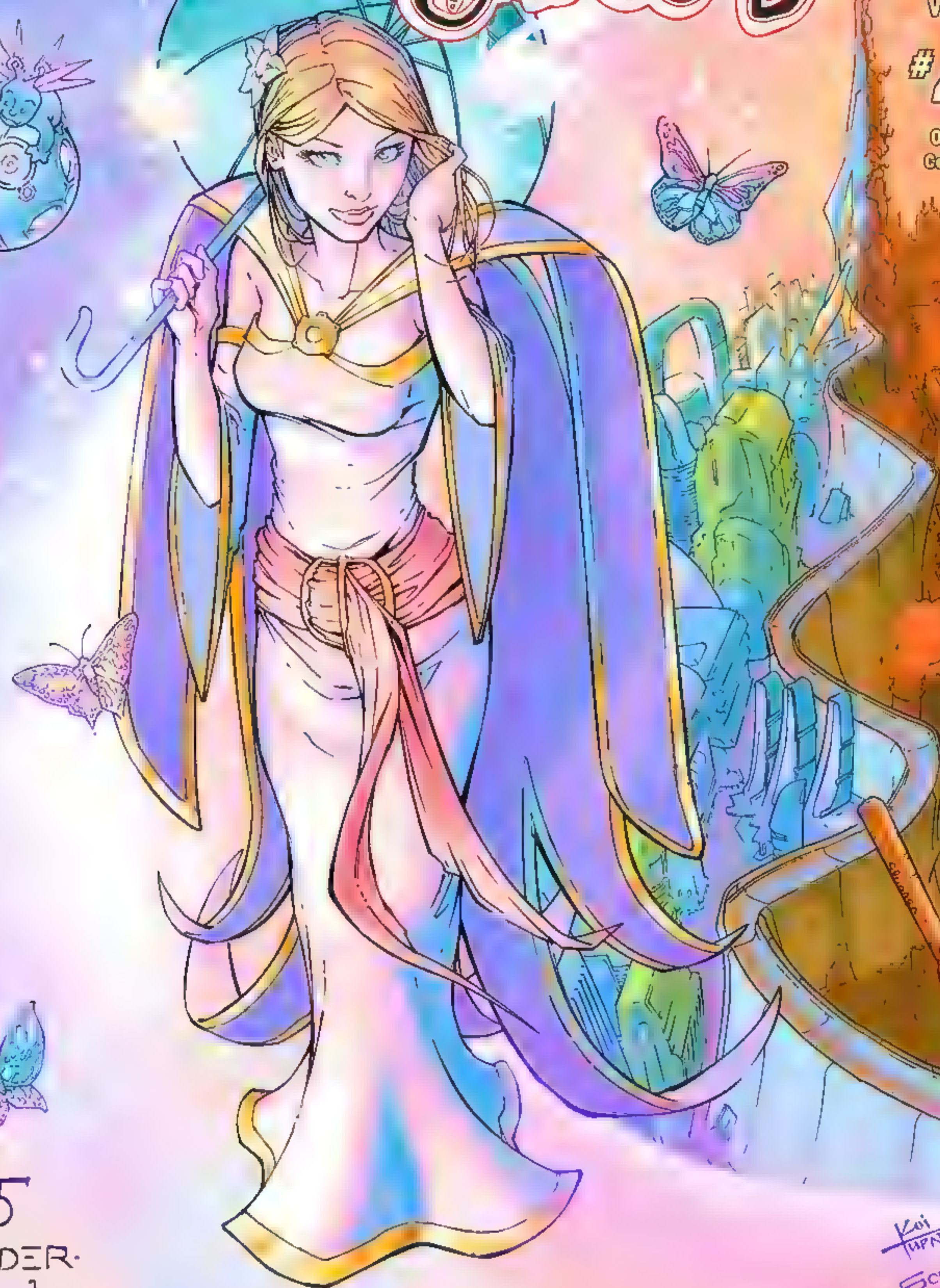
#4

OF 8
COVER D

SHRUGGED



GORDER
Sotelo



Koi
TURNER
06
SCORER



SHRUGGED

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Letters
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VOLUME ONE ISSUE **FOUR** OF EIGHT

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HOLD STILL
GOO.

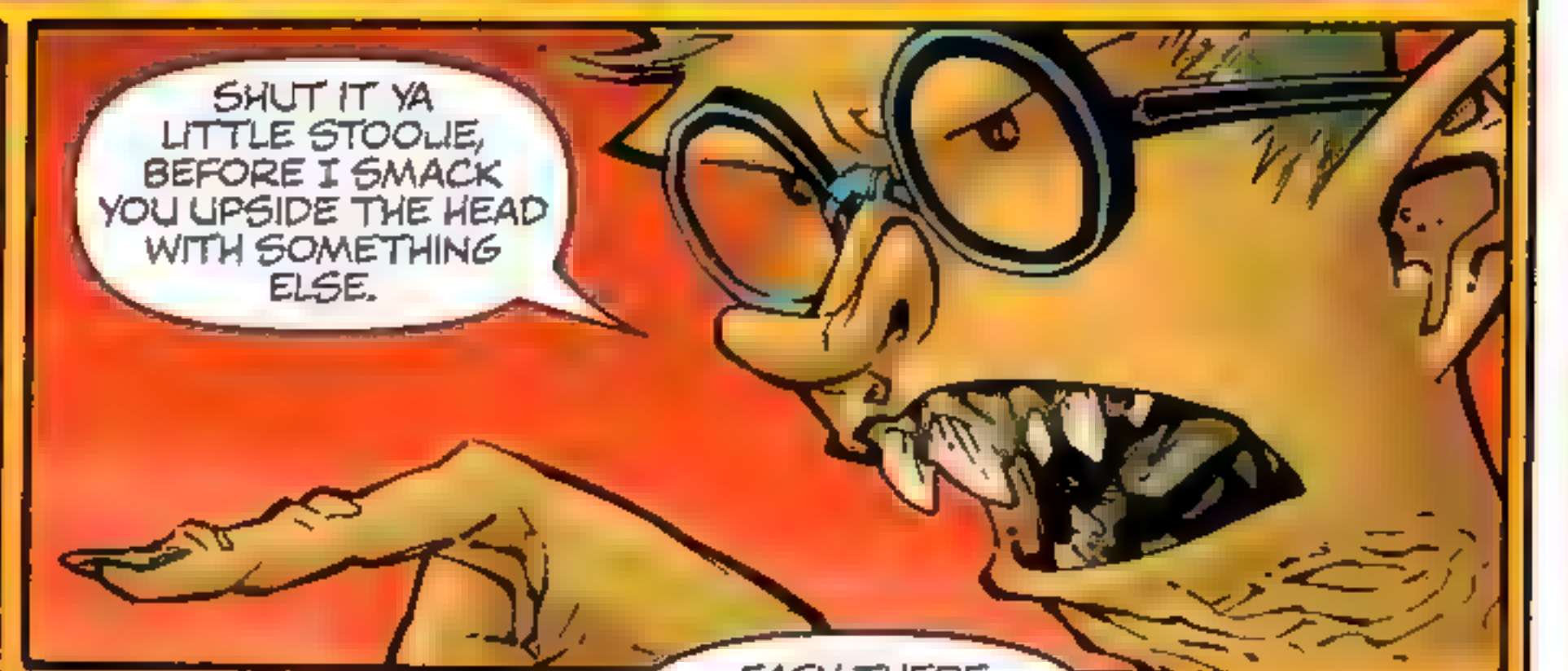
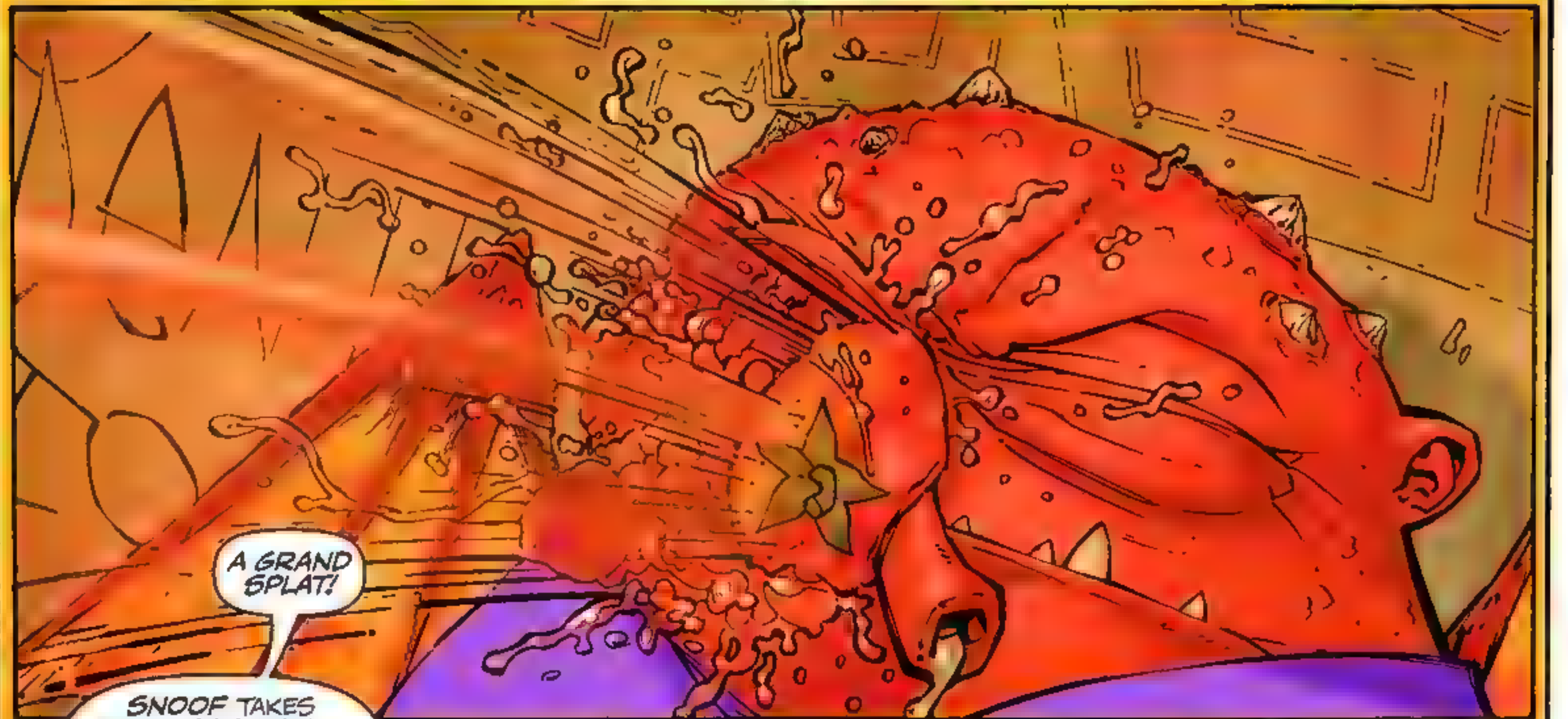
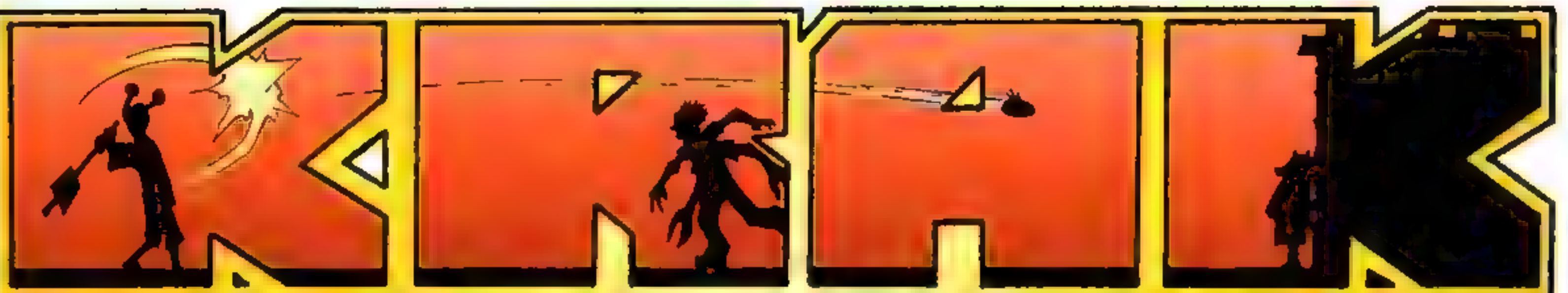
YEAH, STAY
STILL OR THE
SCORE WON'T COUNT.
I AIN'T LOSIN' BY A
LOUSY POINT AGAIN
JUST CAUSE YOU
CAN'T KEEP FROM
SHAKIN'!

I WON THAT
LAST GAME FAIR
AND SQUARE. YOUR
TERRIBLE HITTING IS
WHAT DID YOU IN,
JUST LIKE TODAY!

SO GET
READY...

CAUSE I'M
SENDING THIS
ONE SPECIAL
DELIVERY!

COMING
AT'CHA GOO!!



WE'RE NOBODIES, AND EVER SINCE DEV LEFT, WE'RE BELOW NOBODIES. WE'RE FAILURES.

I MEAN LOOK AT US. NONE OF US HAVE EVER MADE IT OUT OF THE BURROWS FOR AS LONG AS DEV HAS. HE'S BEEN GONE FOREVER. WELL, AT LEAST IT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER.

HE MUST REALLY BE DOING A GOOD JOB WITH HIS HOST, AND PROBABLY GETTING ALONG WITH HIS 'ELLY,' TOO. OF ALL THE WACKY NEFS WE KNOW, WHO WOULD OF THOUGHT IT'D BE DEV TO DO WELL?

I MISS HIM AND DESPISE HIM ALL AT ONCE.

HEY, IT'S DEV'S FIRST TIME. I'M SURE HE'S JUST TRYING TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION ON HIS HOST. REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED WITH HIS DAD? I'M SURE HE DOESN'T WANT A REPEAT OF *THAT* INCIDENT.

YEAH WELL, I THINK ALL OF US HAVE HAD SOME KIND OF CATASTROPHE HAPPEN AT ONE POINT OR ANOTHER WITH OUR HOST. WHAT MAKES *HIM* SO SPECIAL?

HE MAY BE A DISORGANIZED, OVERCONFIDENT, INCONSIDERATE, TARDY OAF, BUT HE'S OUR *FRIEND* PLUS, HE HAS SOMETHING THAT NONE OF US DO...

THE DESIRE TO *SUCCEED*

AND THAT MY FELLOW COMPATRIOTS IS THE REASON DEV IS THERE, AND WE'RE STUCK HERE.

HE'S A GO GETTER, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

CONFIDENCE? DESIRE TO SUCCEED?

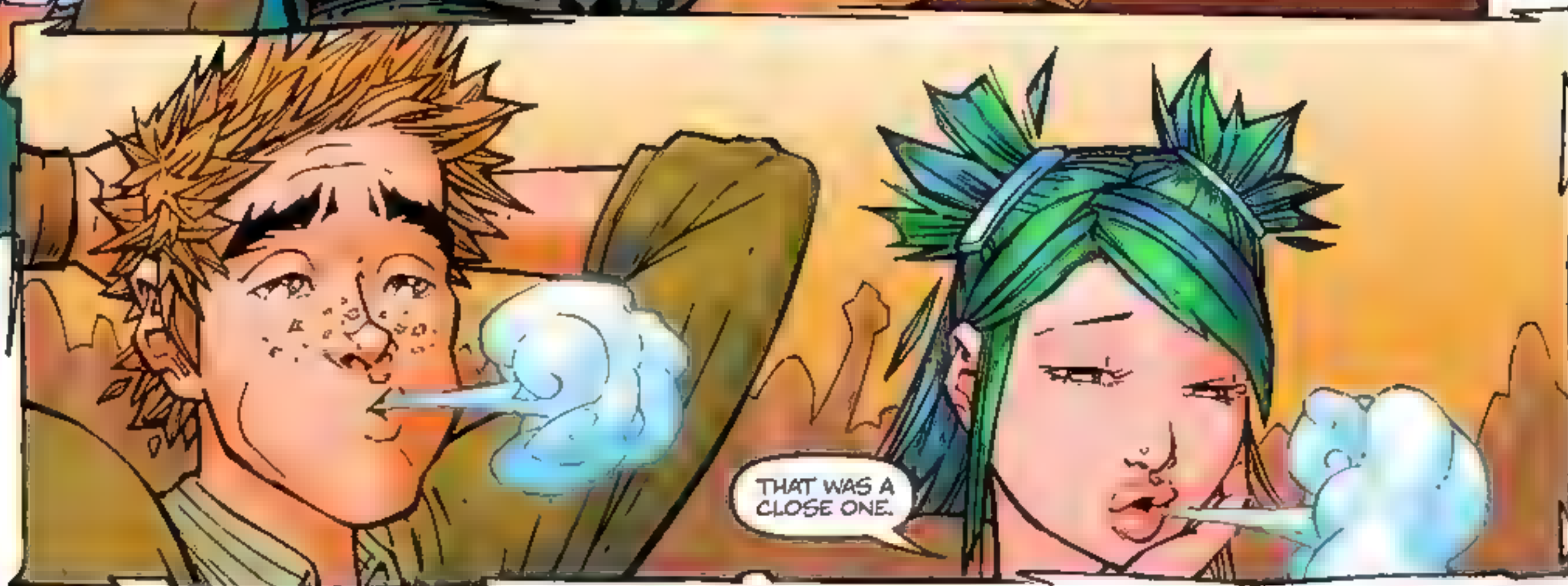
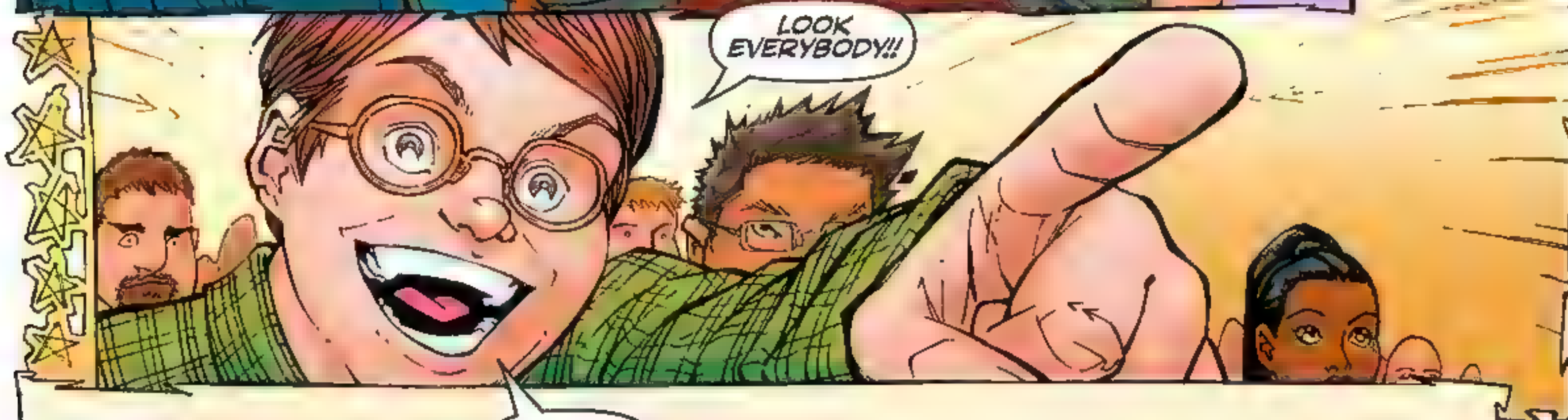
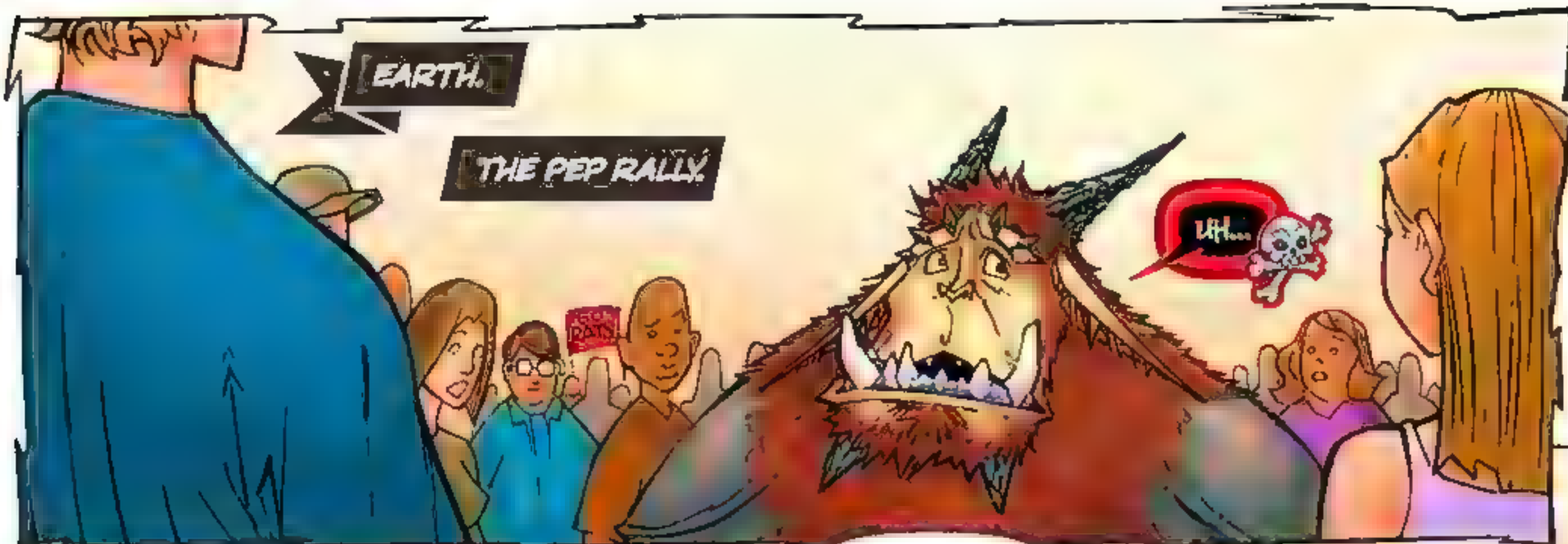
GO GO...

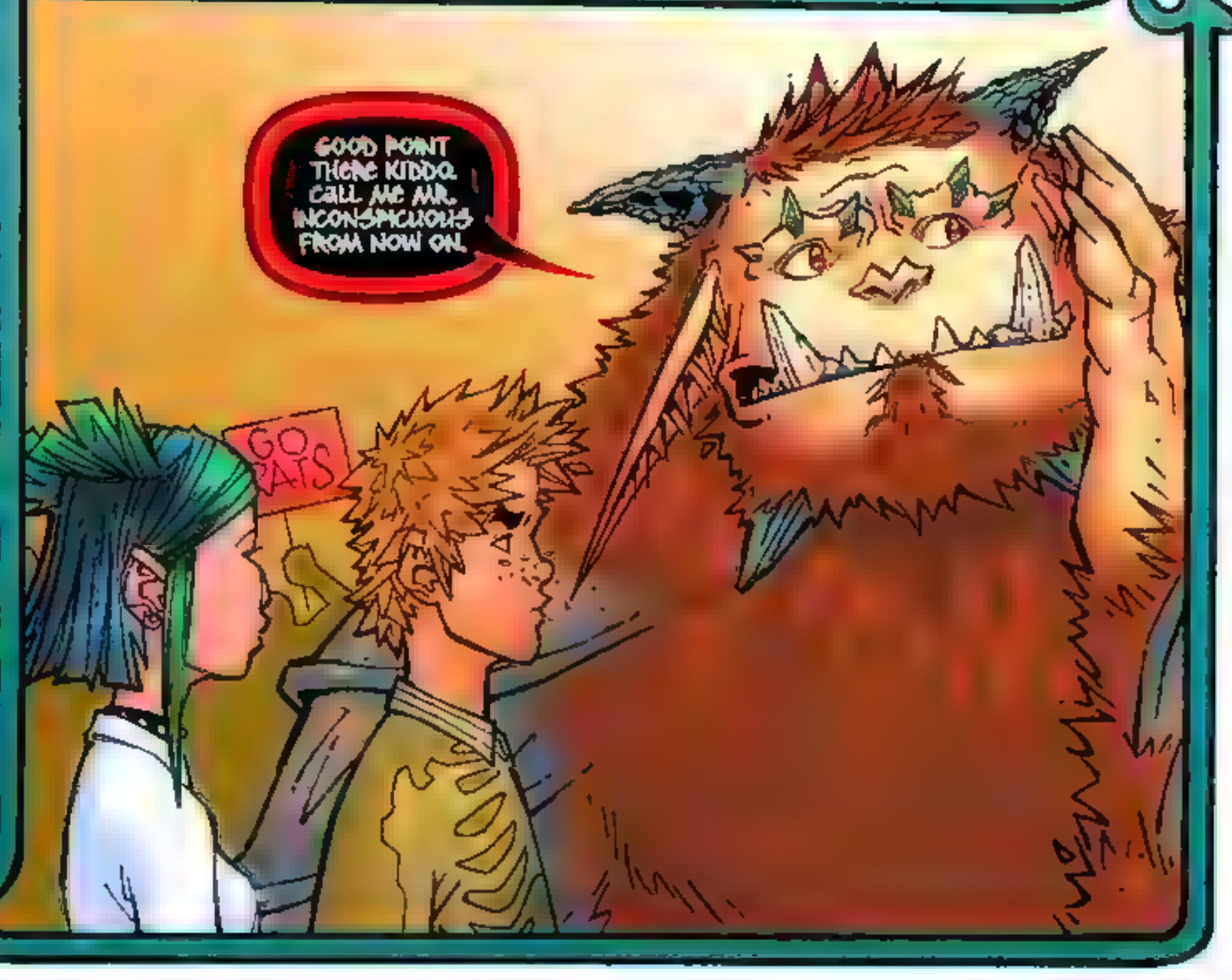
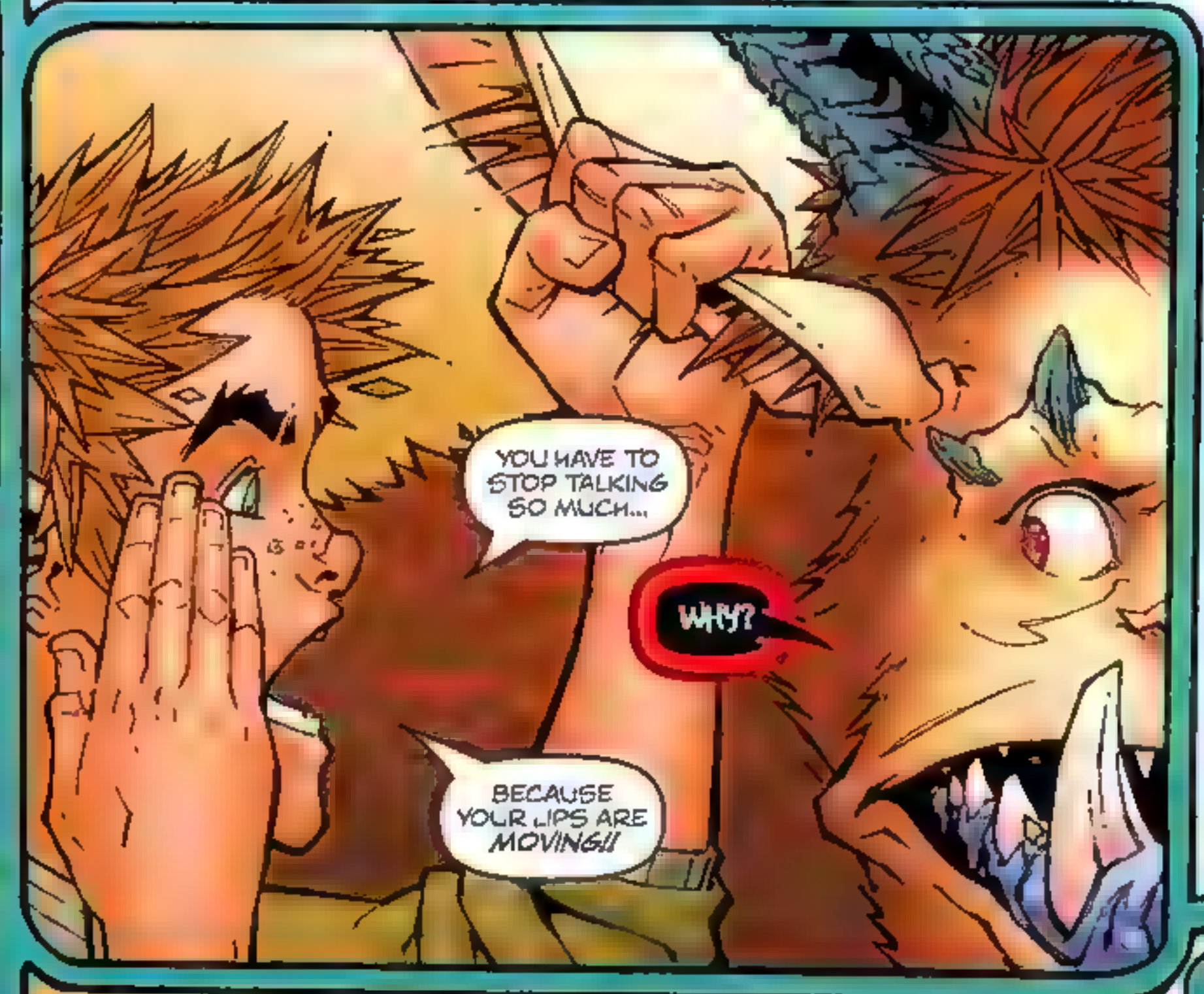
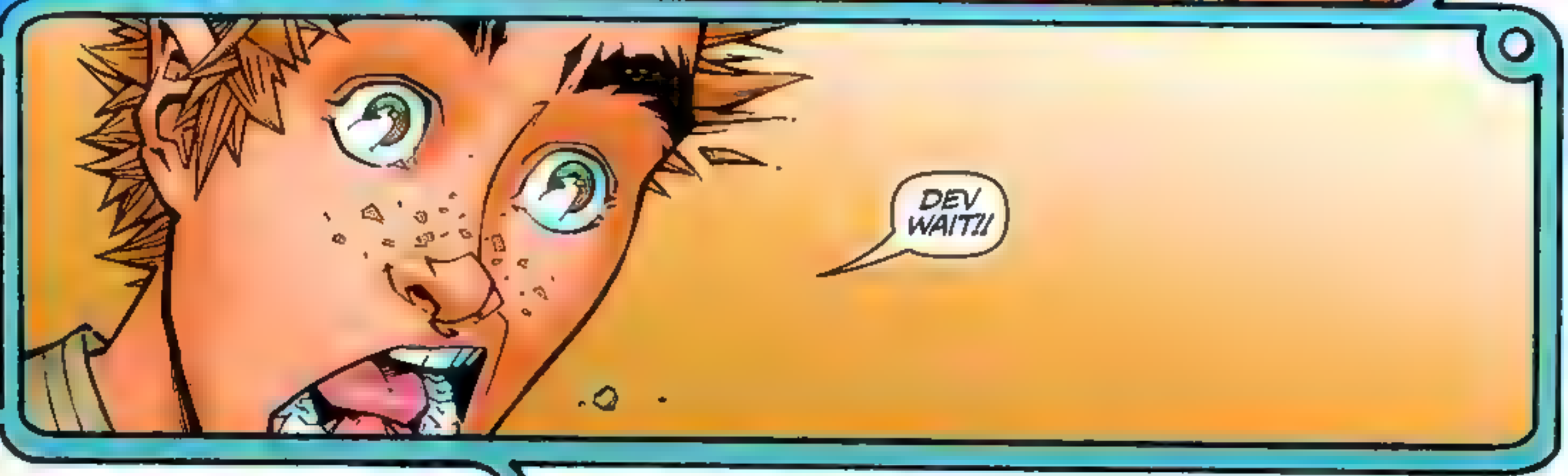
AH, WHATEVER...

GO GO...

HE CAN KEEP 'EM.

GO GET 'EM DEV!!







WELL MR. INCONSPICUOUS, TIME TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE. THE GAME IS ABOUT READY TO START, AND WE NEED TO GET HOME AND FIGURE OUT WHAT IS GOING ON HERE. LET'S GO.

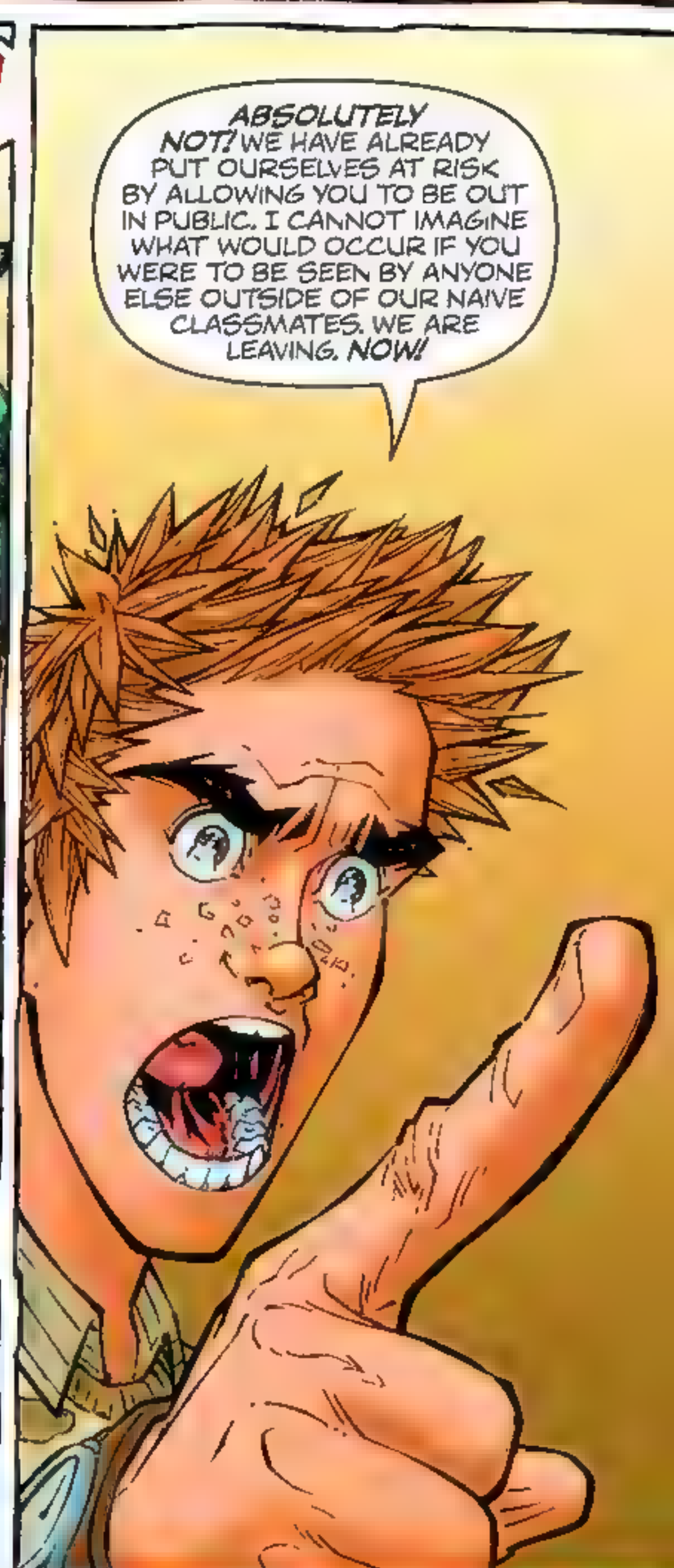
AWWW...



CMON MAN, CAN'T WE JUST STAY AT LEAST FOR THE BEGINNING?? I'VE NEVER GOT TO SIT ON THE BLEACHERS MYSELF BEFORE. I BET THE COLD METAL WILL FEEL GOOD ON MY BUTT!



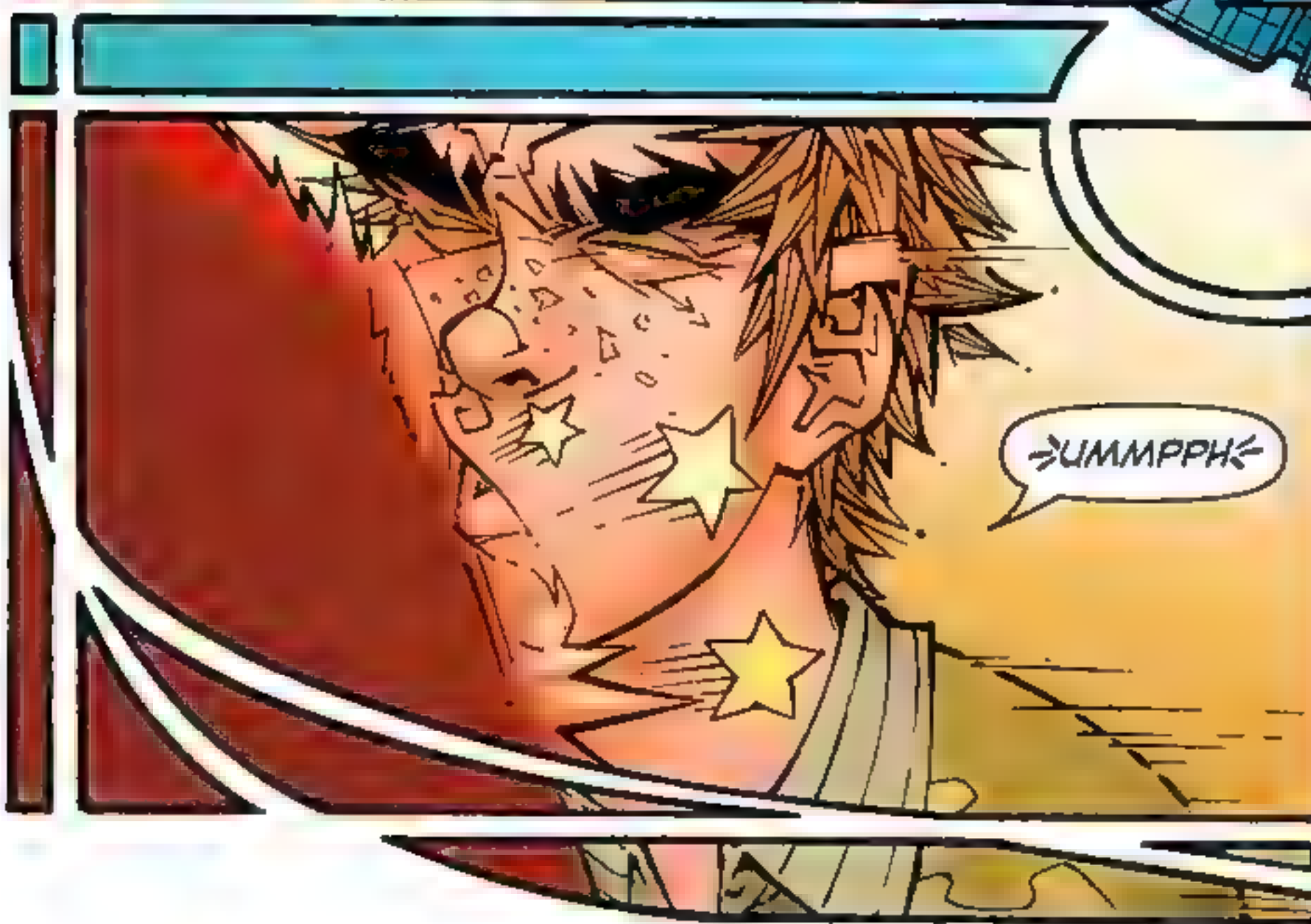
PLEASE?!?!?

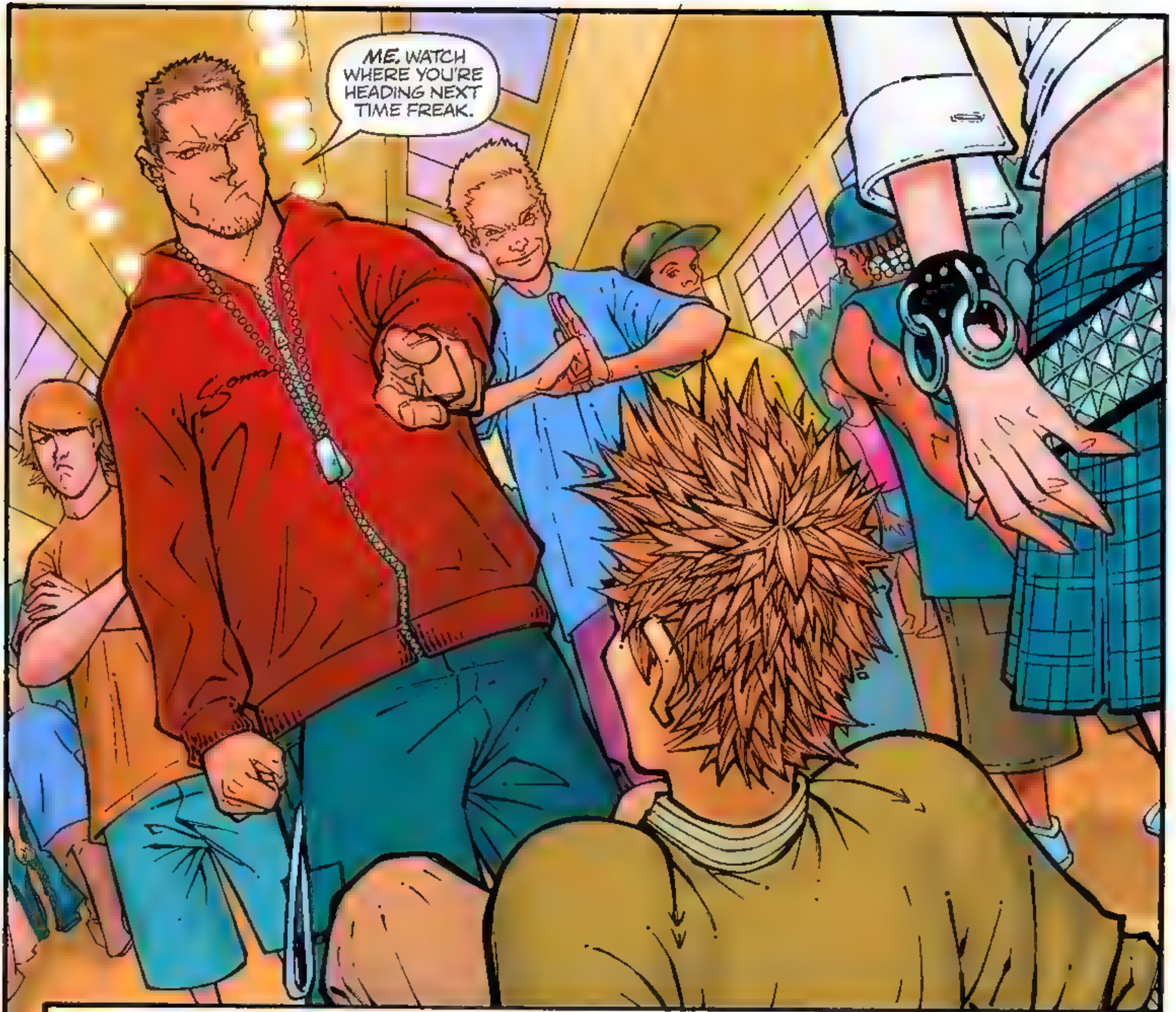


ABSOLUTELY NOT! WE HAVE ALREADY PUT OURSELVES AT RISK BY ALLOWING YOU TO BE OUT IN PUBLIC. I CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT WOULD OCCUR IF YOU WERE TO BE SEEN BY ANYONE ELSE OUTSIDE OF OUR NAIVE CLASSMATES. WE ARE LEAVING. NOW!



WELL, THIS 'NAIVE' CLASSMATE THINKS WE SHOULD AT LEAST TAKE THE EAST EXIT. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, WE CAN AVOID THE PARKING LOT AND HEAD OUT THROUGH THE BUS LOADING AREA.





NO, WALKER IS RIGHT. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN WATCHING WHERE I WAS GOING. IT WAS MY FAULT.

ARE YOU FOR REAL? YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT NO BRAIN CELLS WALKER HERE! THE GUY GETS HEADACHES JUST ADDING UP NUMBERS WITH MORE THAN TWO DIGITS.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING BIZARRO GIRL. WHY DON'T YA PICK A HAIR COLOR?

NICE ONE BRO!

HE HE. COLORED HAIR'S DUMB.

YEAH, GO JOIN THE CIRCUS YA CLOWNS.

AND TAKE YOUR NAPPY-HAIRED MASCOT BUDDY WITH YA.

CAN WE PLEASE JUST GET GOING NOW?

BE SEEING YA AROUND, CLOWN BOY.



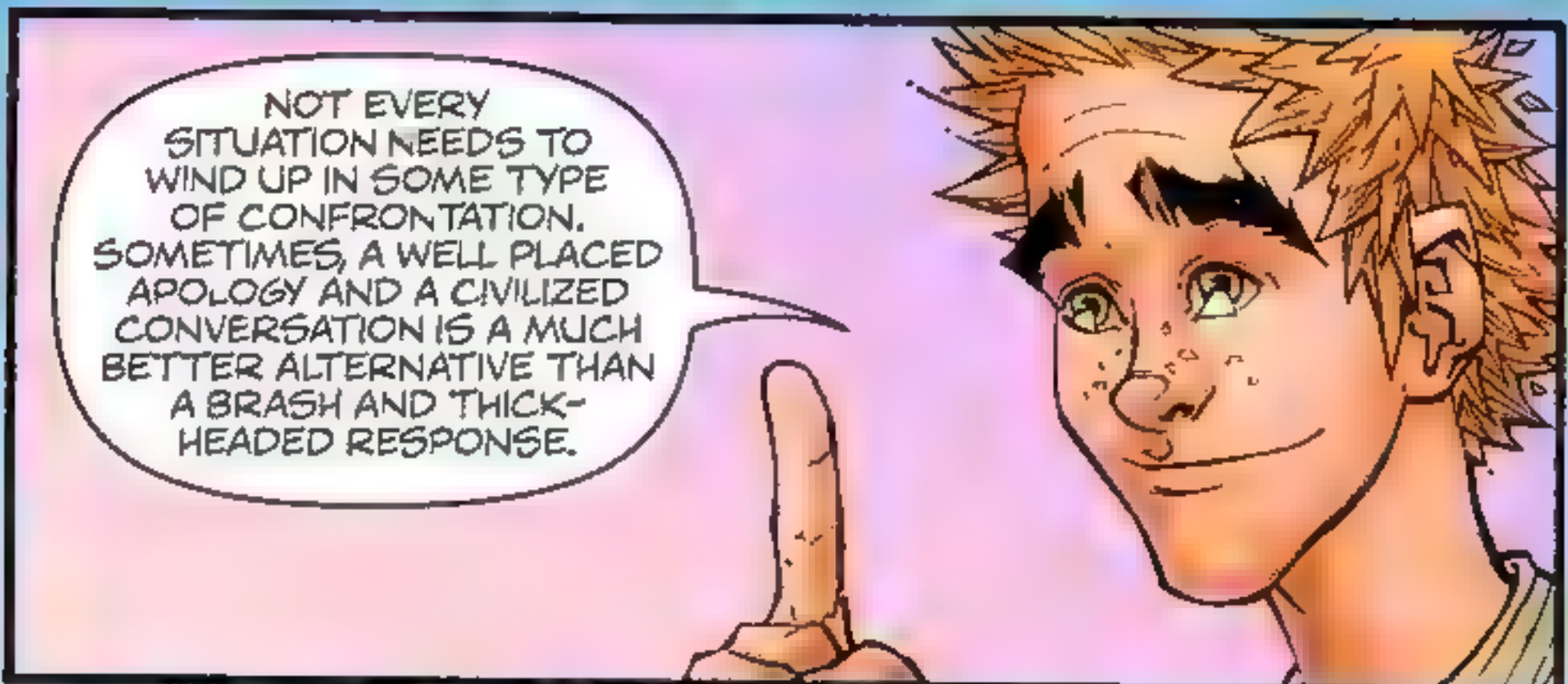
WHERE'D
YOU LOSE
'EM T?

EXCUSE ME?
LOSE WHAT?

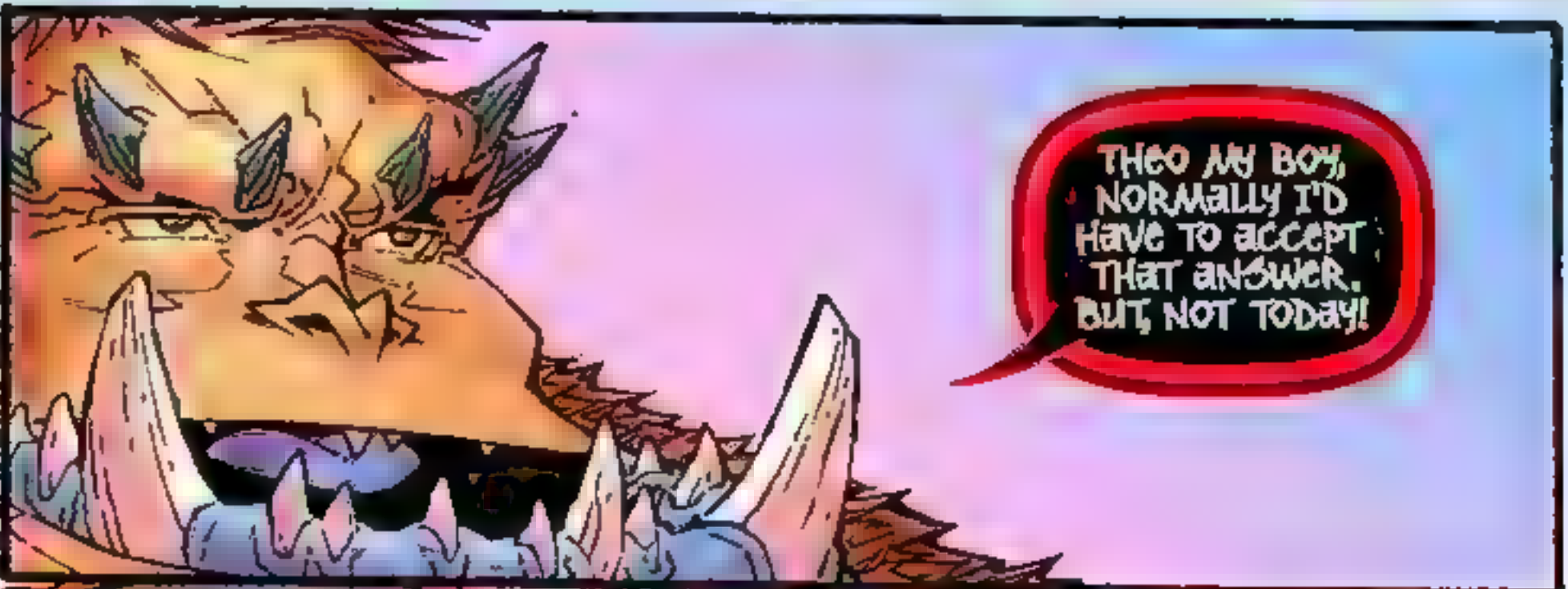
YOUR BALLS!!
YOU COMPLETELY WIMPED
OUT BACK THERE. YOU'VE PUT
THAT WALKER PUNK IN HIS
PLACE PLenty OF TIMES. AND
NOW YOU GO AND DO
SOMETHING LIKE THIS.



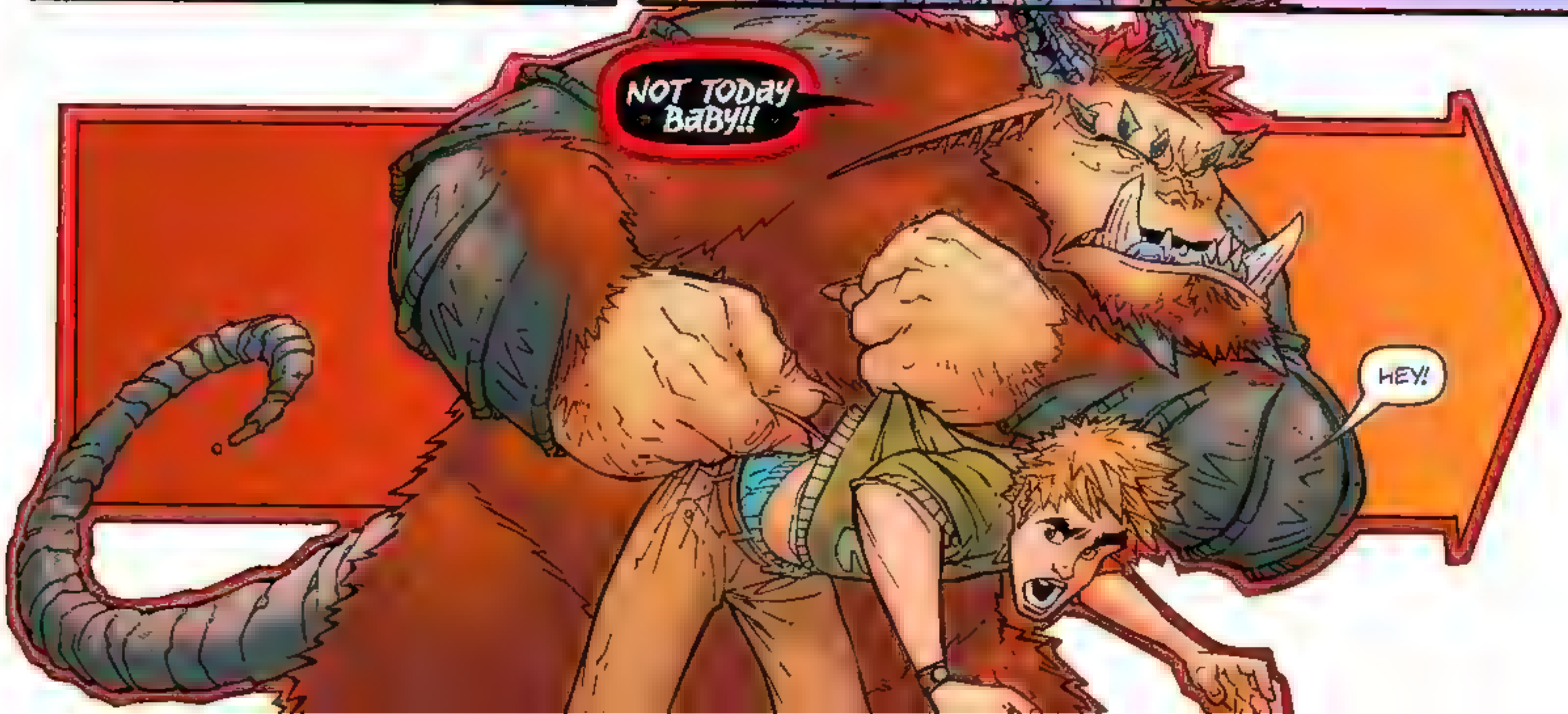
WHAT A
WUSS YOU
TURNED OUT
TO BE!



NOT EVERY
SITUATION NEEDS TO
WIND UP IN SOME TYPE
OF CONFRONTATION.
SOMETIMES, A WELL PLACED
APOLOGY AND A CIVILIZED
CONVERSATION IS A MUCH
BETTER ALTERNATIVE THAN
A BRASH AND THICK-
HEADED RESPONSE.

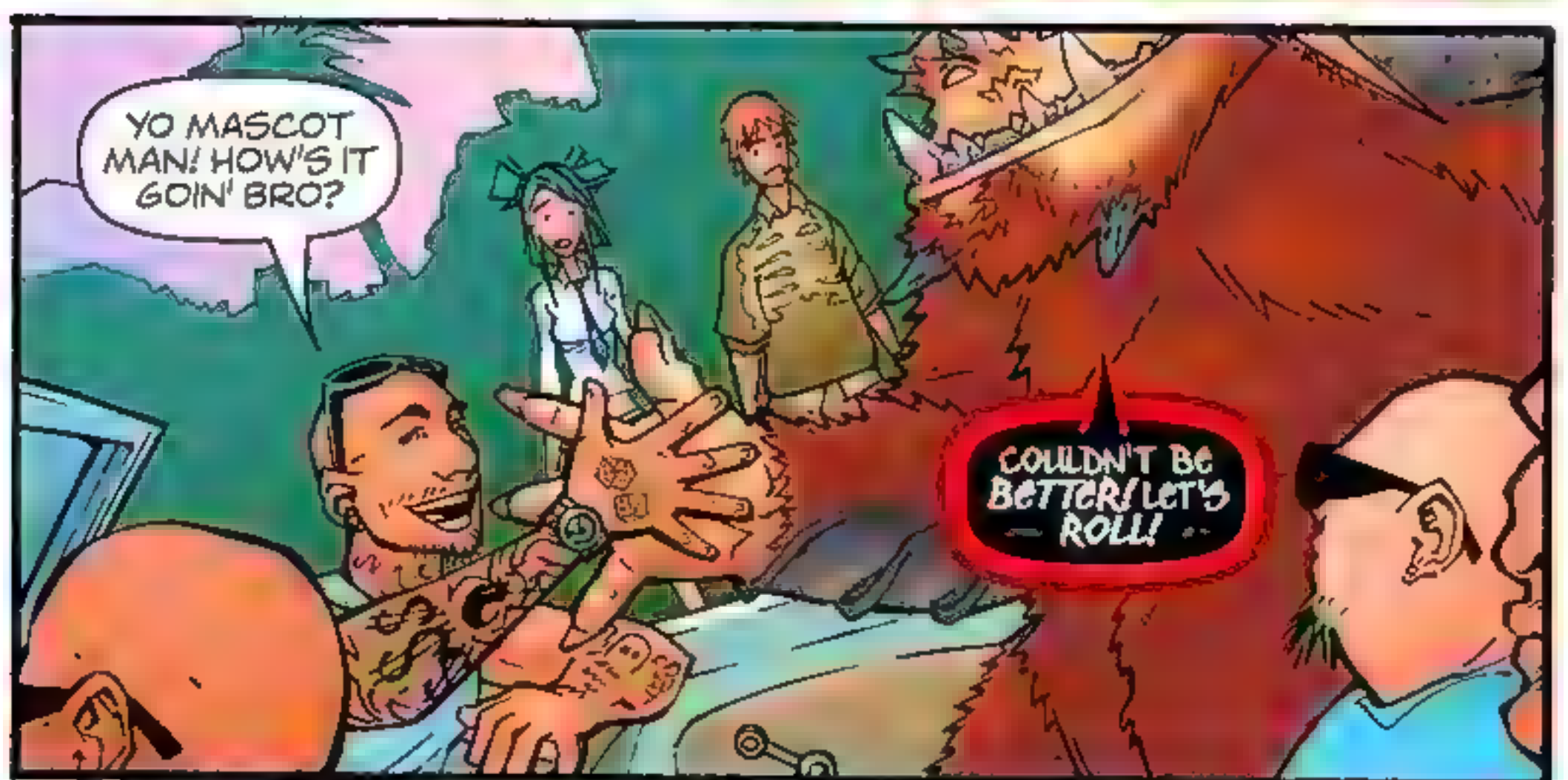
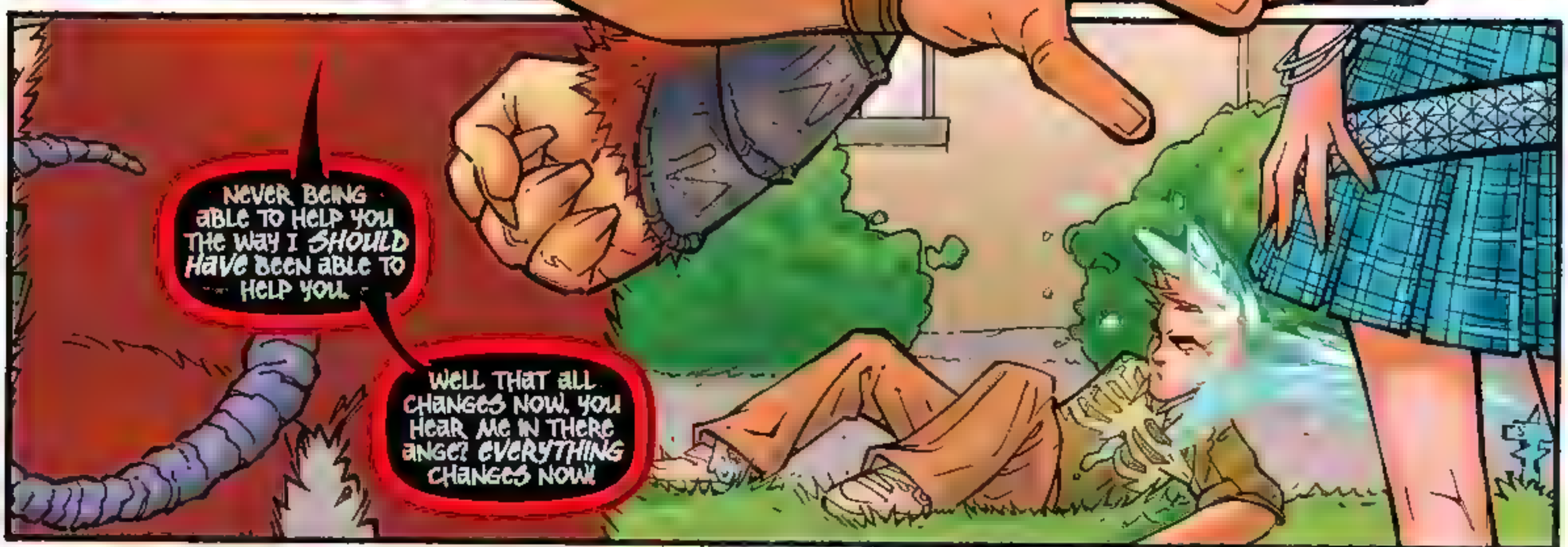
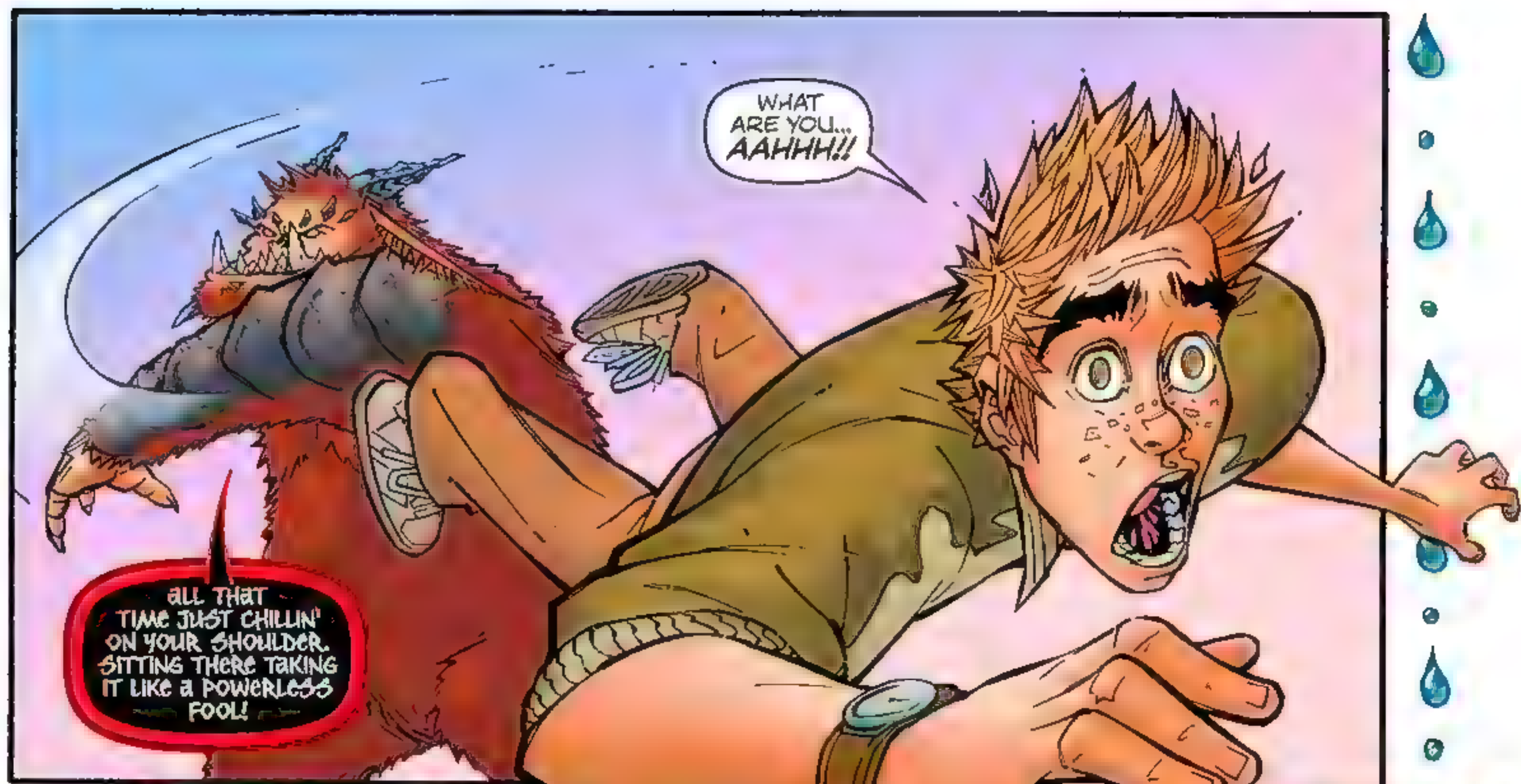


THEO MY BOY,
NORMALLY I'D
HAVE TO ACCEPT
THAT ANSWER.
BUT, NOT TODAY!



**NOT TODAY
BABY!!**

HEY!



SOMEWHERE IN PERSPECTA.

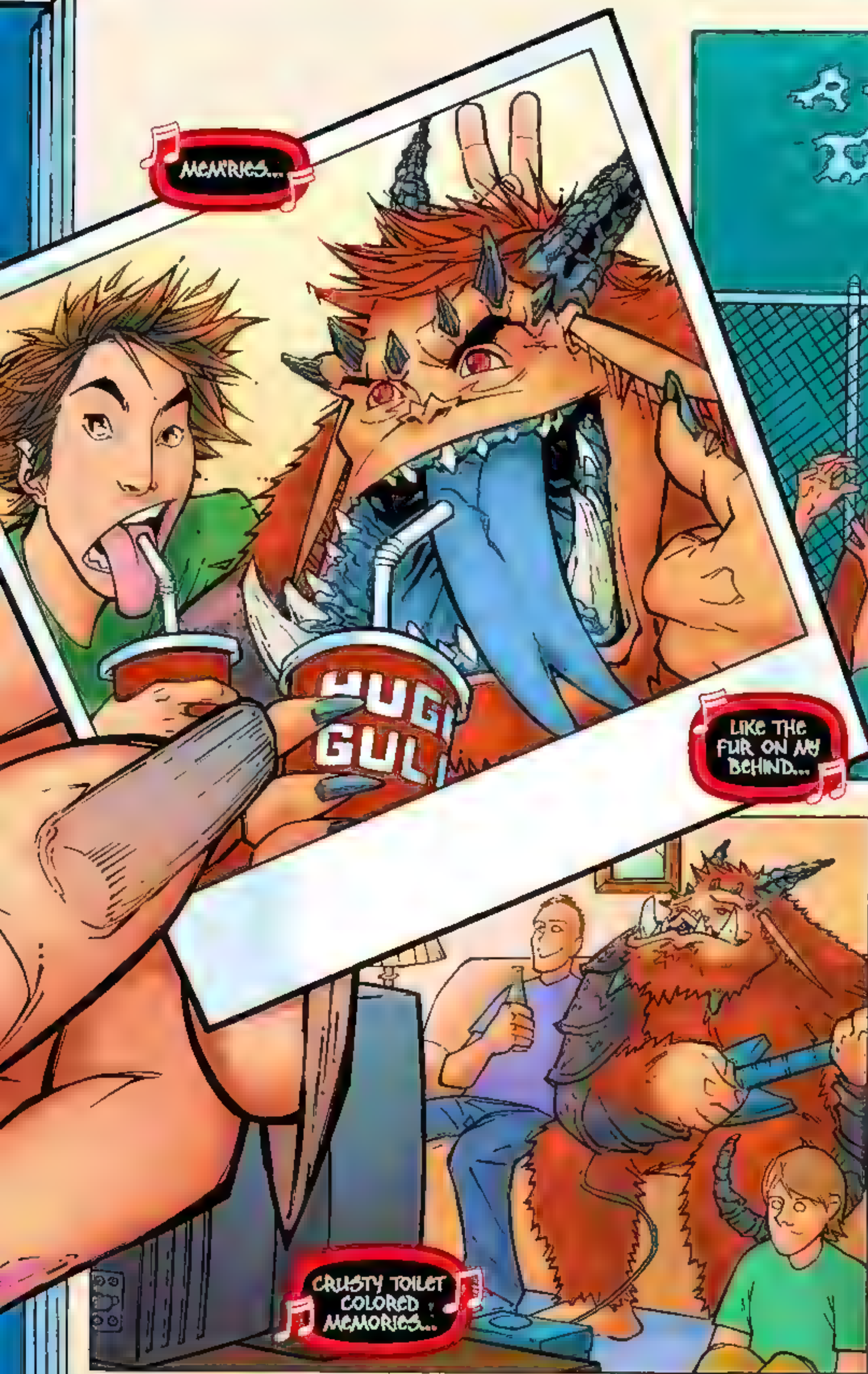
AFTER
YEARS OF
PREPARATION,
THE TIME IS
NEARLY UPON
US.

I CAN
FEEL IT.

THE DAWNING
OF A NEW AGE IS
FINALLY HERE, AND I
WILL BE THE FIRST
ONE TO BASK IN
ITS GLOW.

AS LONG AS ALL
OF YOU MAINTAIN
EVERYTHING ACCORDING
TO PLAN, THERE WILL BE
NOTHING STANDING IN
YOUR WAY.

OR MINE.

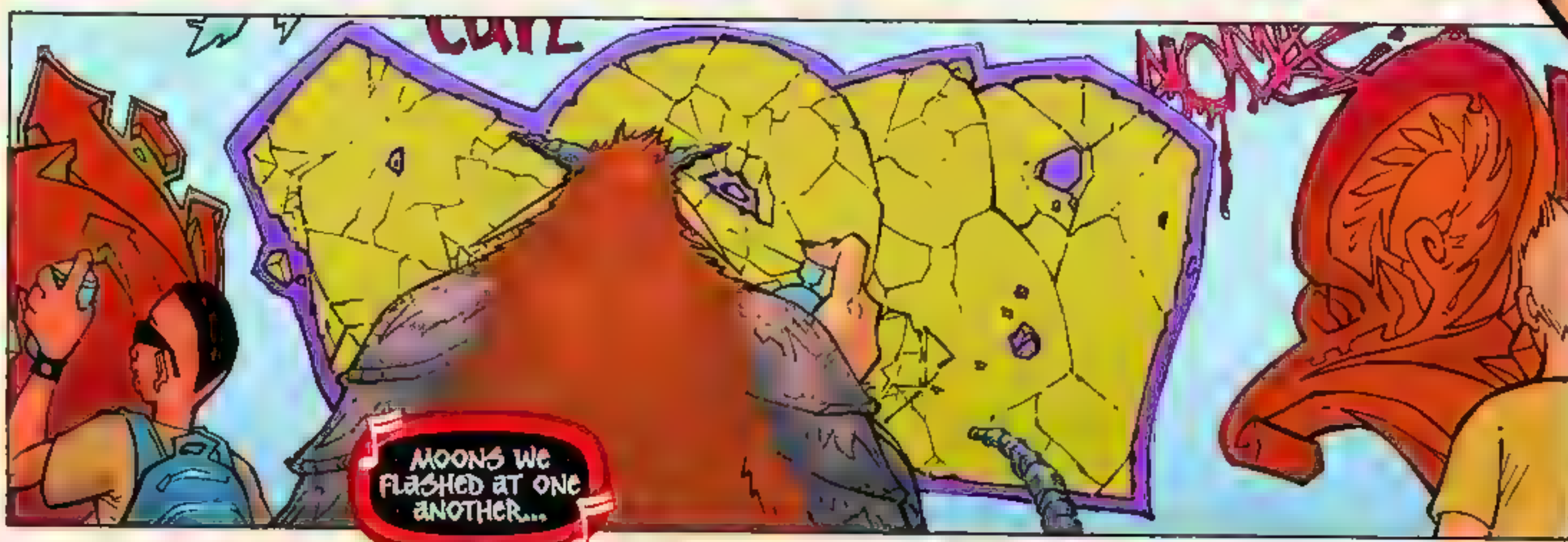


LIKE THE
FUR ON MY
BEHIND...



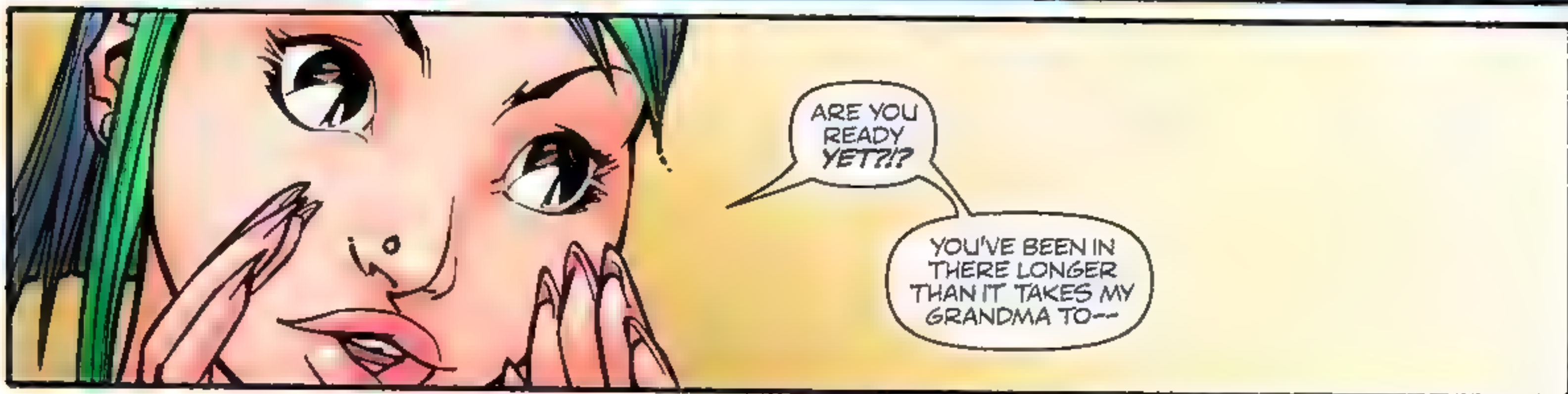
OF THE
WAY I WAS...





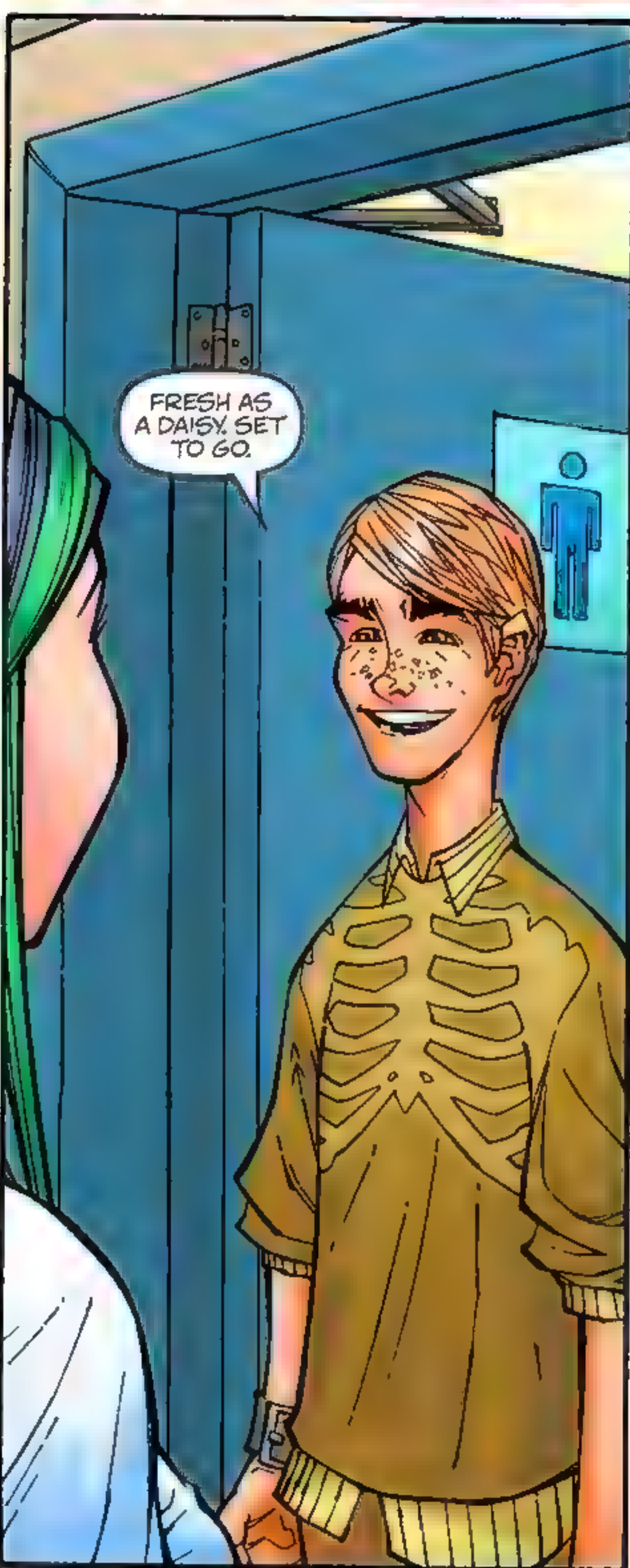


HEY THEO...



ARE YOU
READY
YET?!

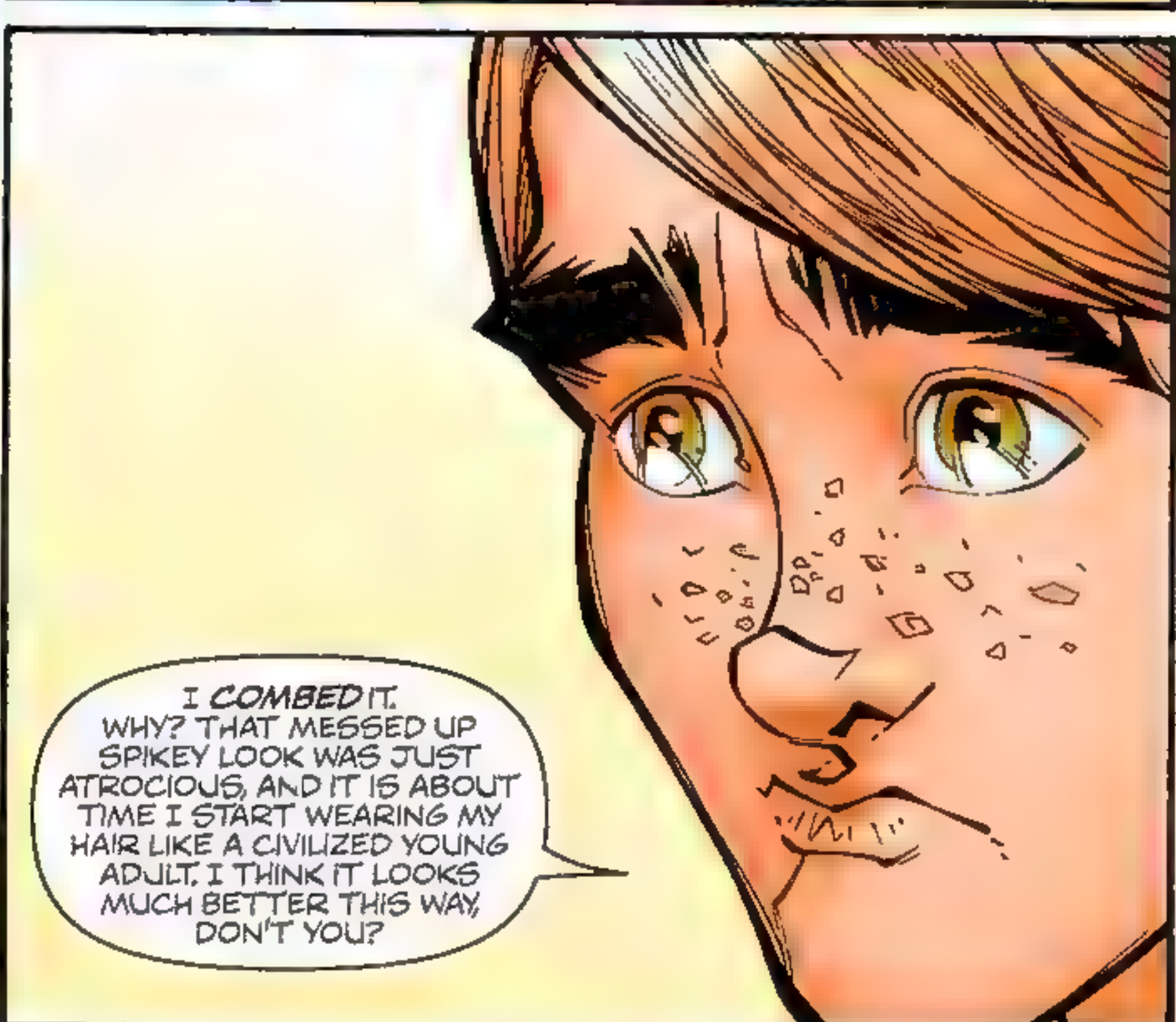
YOU'VE BEEN IN
THERE LONGER
THAN IT TAKES MY
GRANDMA TO--



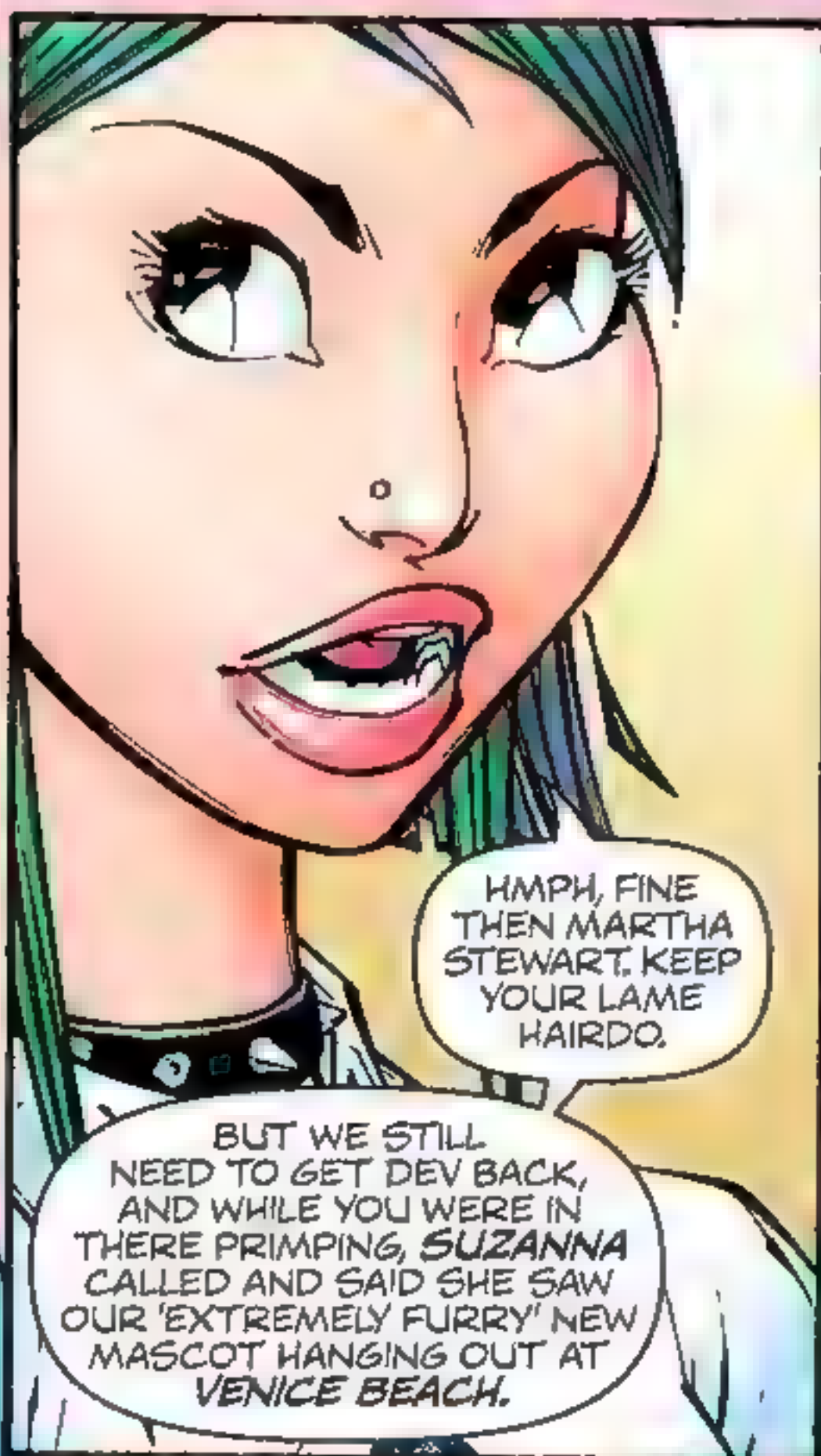
FRESH AS
A DAISY. SET
TO GO.



DUDE, WHAT
THE HELL DID
YOU DO TO YOUR
HAIR?!



I COMBED IT.
WHY? THAT MESSED UP
SPIKEY LOOK WAS JUST
ATROCIOUS, AND IT IS ABOUT
TIME I START WEARING MY
HAIR LIKE A CIVILIZED YOUNG
ADULT. I THINK IT LOOKS
MUCH BETTER THIS WAY,
DON'T YOU?



VENICE BEACH.

OH YEAH!

NOW THAT'S
WHAT I CALL A
SUNDAE!!

HUH?

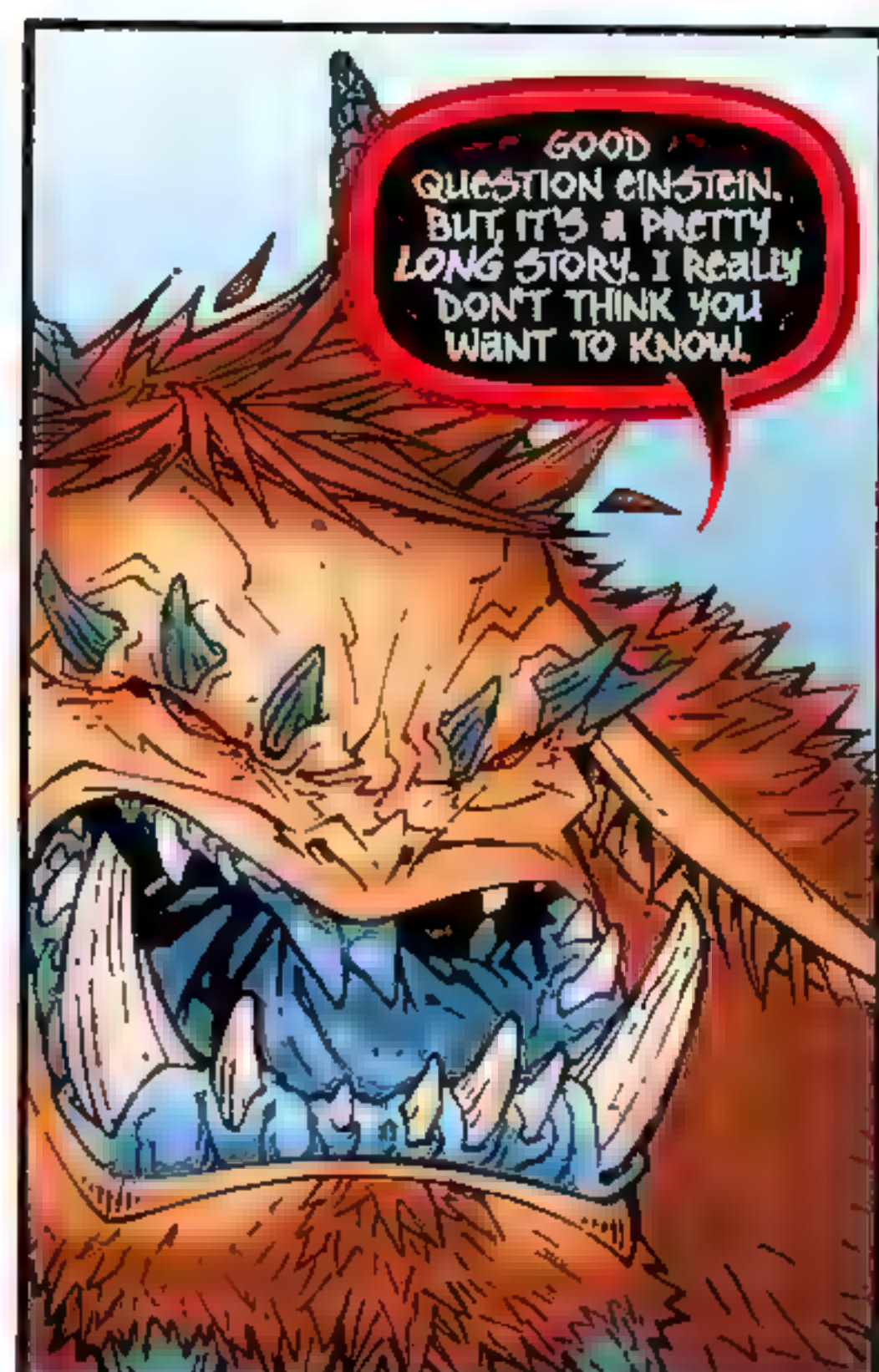
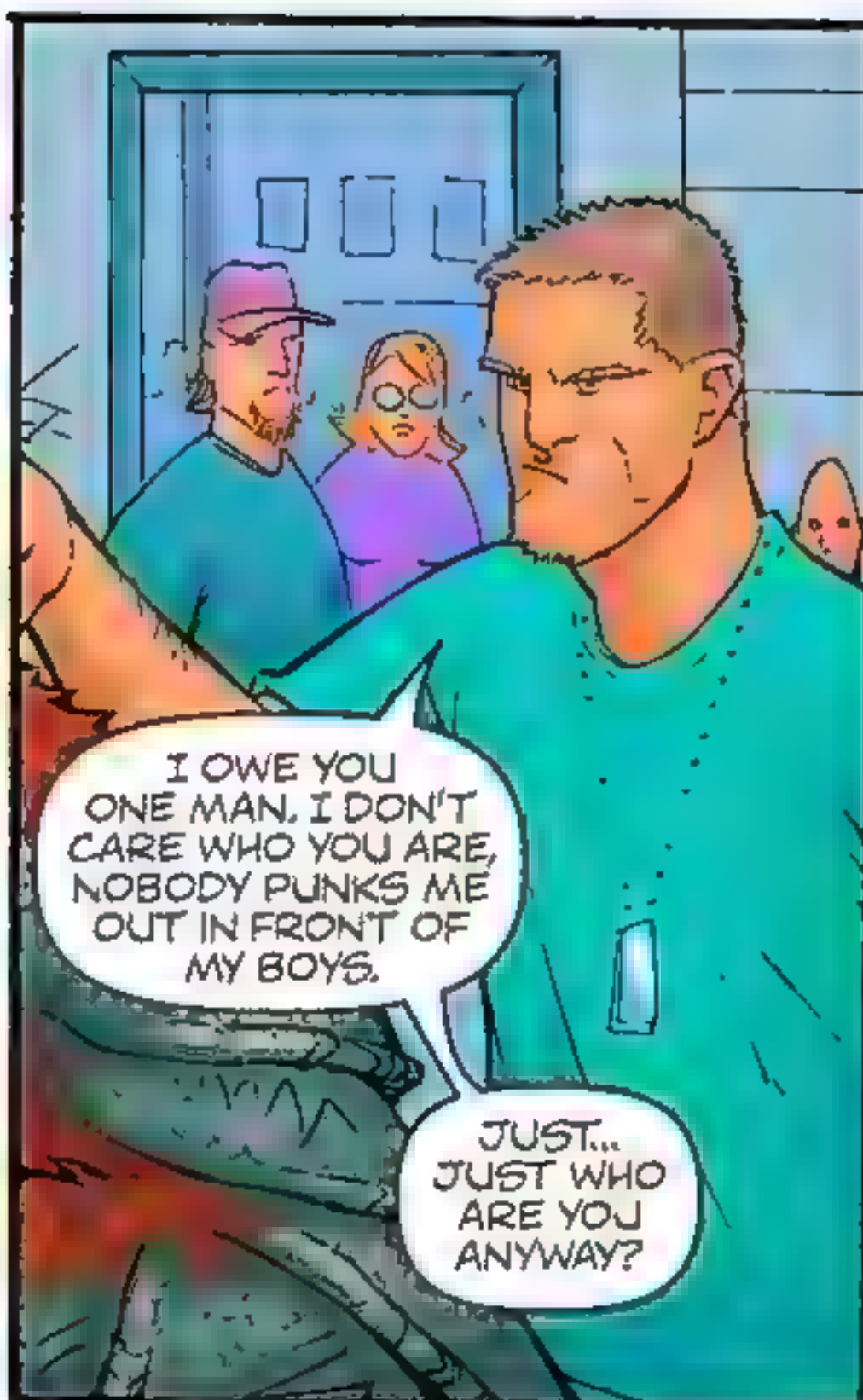
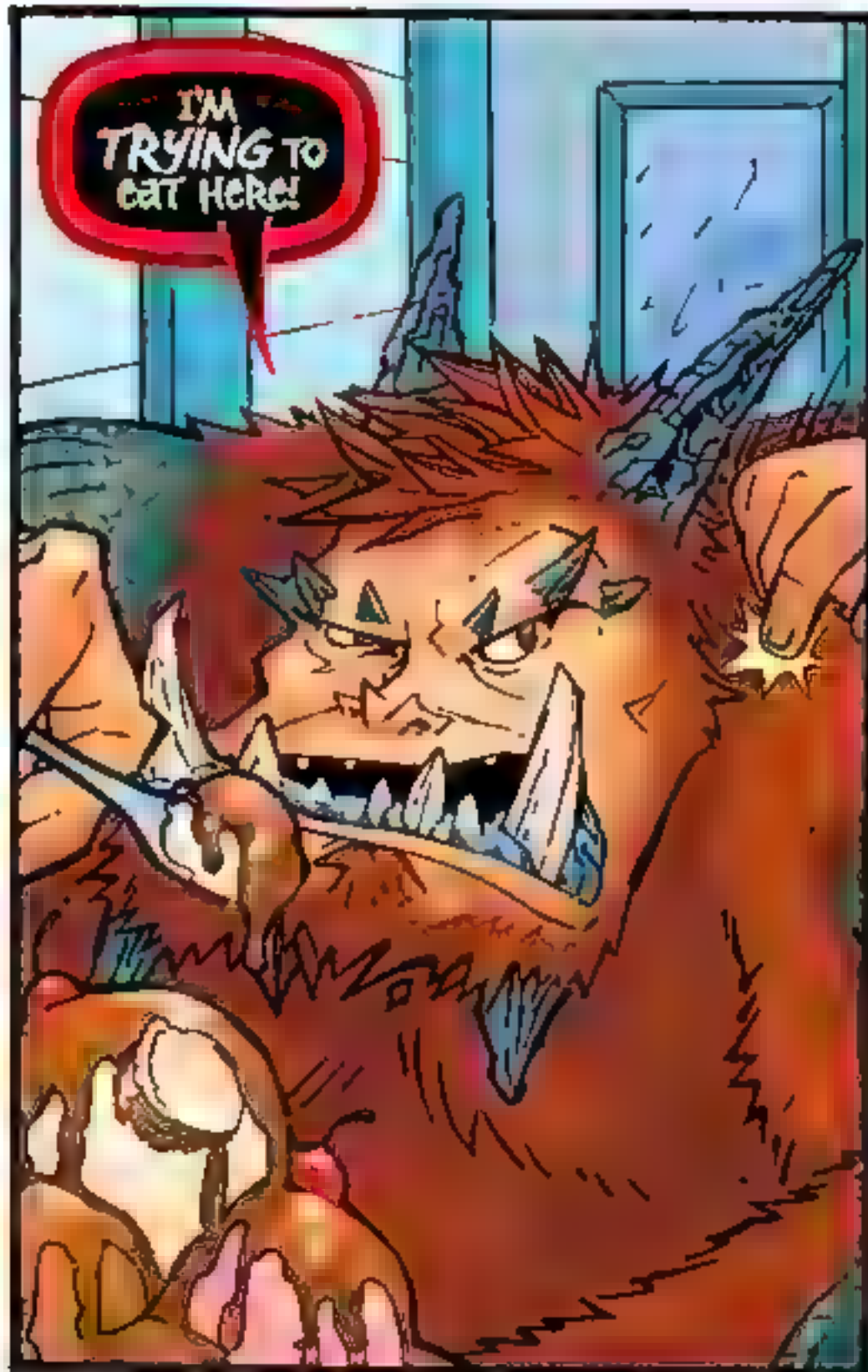
I LIKE YOUR
FUR. IT'S NICE
AND SOFT.

THANKS KID. DO
ME A FAVOR AND LAY
OFF THE THREADS THOUGH.
I GOTTA RETURN THIS
COSTUME TOMORROW.

COSTUME?
YOU'RE NOT
WEARING A COSTUME,
YOU'RE REAL. YOU
SMELL FUNNY TOO.

I FORGOT MY
DEODORANT. ALRIGHT
THEN, OK, TIME TO GO
WITH YOUR MOMMY. SEE
YA LATER KID. TAKE
CARE. BYE BYE.

BYE MR.
MONSTER.





YO DEV!

HOLD UP
THERE A SEC
BRO!

I DIDN'T
BELIEVE IT WHEN
KIORI TOLD ME, BUT
MAN, YOU ARE ONE OF
THE MOST WHACKED
OUT LOOKING MOFOS
I'VE EVER SEEN.

NO
OFFENSE.

NOW I AIN'T
ONE TO JUDGE,
CAUSE I'M SURE
YOU'RE A COOL CAT
AND ALL...

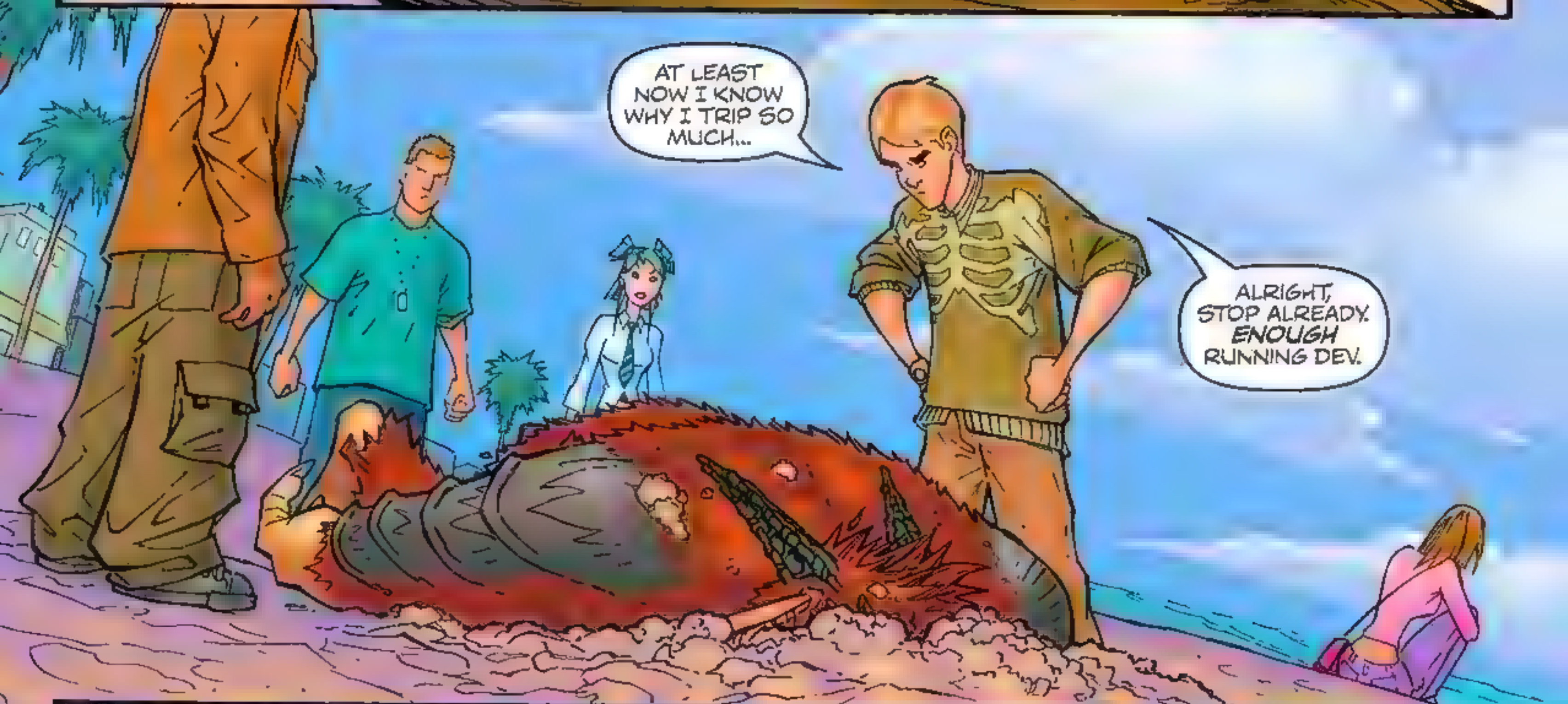
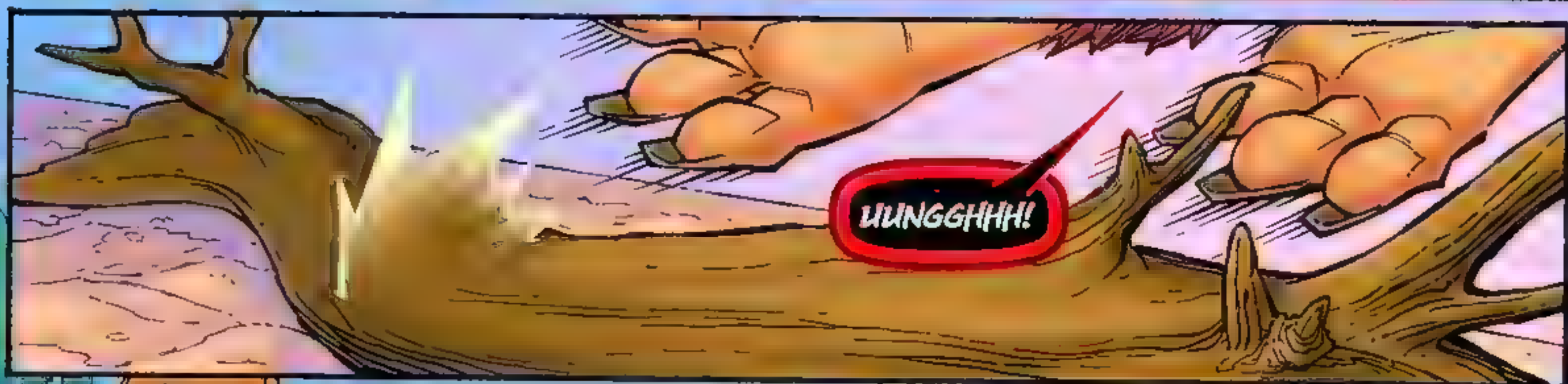
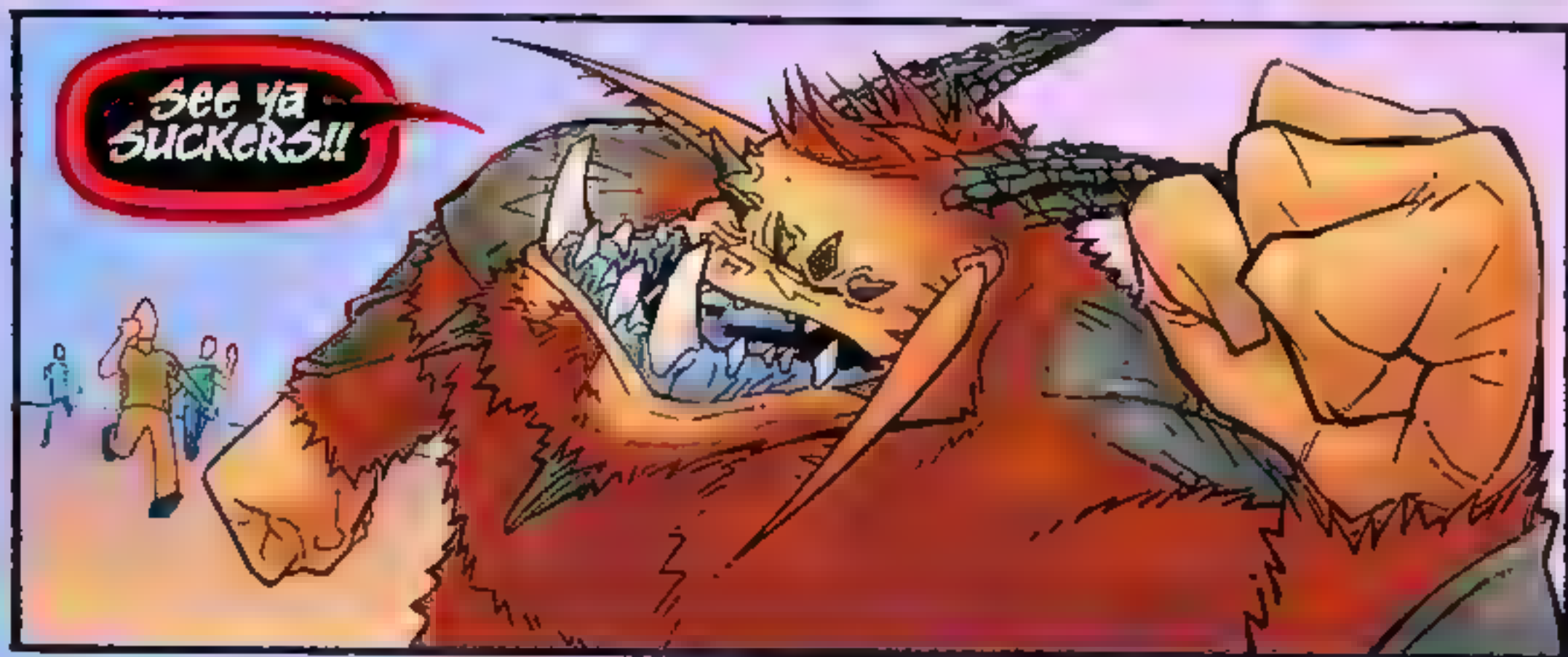
BUT SINCE
YOU'VE BEEN HIGH
TAILIN' IT AROUND
TOWN WITHOUT YOUR
LEASH, THESE
NEPHEWS OF MINE
ASKED ME TO DROP
ON BY. THEY NEED
A WORD IF YOU
WILL.

FUN TIME
IS OVER DEV.
TIME TO GO.

WELL GOOD FOR
YOU T. YA FOUND ME.
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT SO
HOPELESS AFTER ALL.

AND NOW THAT MY
SUNDAY'S COMPLETELY
MELTED AND RUINED, ALL
YOU HAVE TO DO...

IS CATCH
ME!!





IT SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY
AS WE STOOD THERE ARGUING.



AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
MY LIFE, THE **CONFLICTS** I
NORMALLY DEALT WITH IN MY
MIND WERE **STANDING** JUST
A FEW FEET IN FRONT OF ME.

I WAS HAVING A
DISAGREEMENT...
WITH MYSELF.

SORT OF.



THE VOICES... OR AT LEAST ONE
OF THEM, USUALLY FILLING MY
THOUGHTS, WERE A REALITY.

BUT HOW?

WHY?

AM I THE ONLY ONE
SOMETHING LIKE THIS
HAS EVER HAPPENED TO?



I STILL FEEL WEIRD BUT I
REMEMBER MITCHELL TELLING
ME ABOUT VOICES IN HIS HEAD.
IS THIS SOMEHOW RELATED TO
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

KIORI?
WHATCHA DOIN'?
YOU ALRIGHT
GIRL?



SO MANY
QUESTIONS.

SO FEW
ANSWERS.

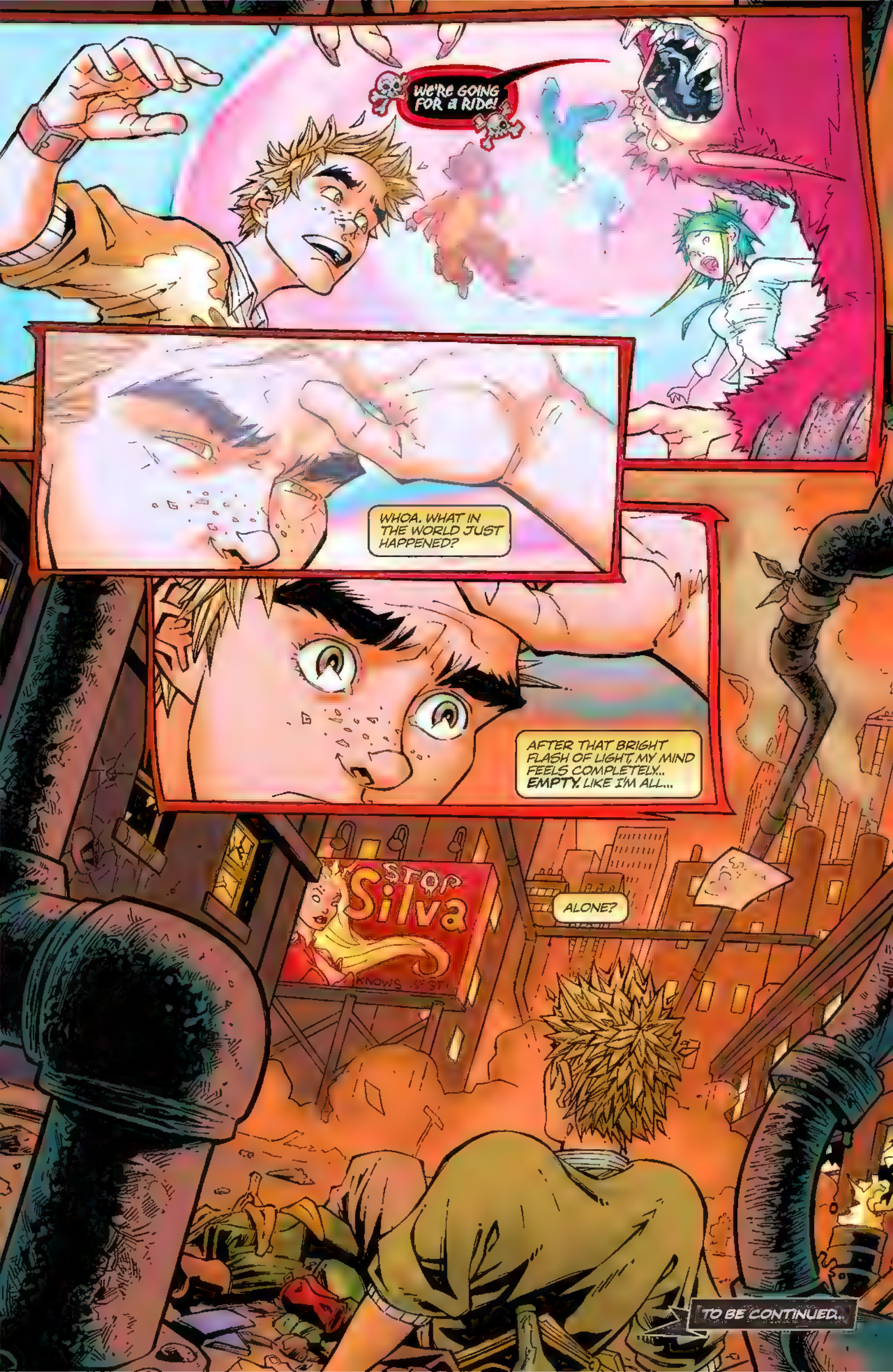
SO MUCH...

GLOWING LIGHT?



DEVI IS
THIS YOUR
DOING?

NOT ME
KID. BUT
HANG ON...



WE'RE GOING FOR A RIDE!

ALONE?

WHOA. WHAT IN THE WORLD JUST HAPPENED?

AFTER THAT BRIGHT FLASH OF LIGHT, MY MIND FEELS COMPLETELY... EMPTY. LIKE I'M ALL...

STOP
Silva
KNOWS BEST

ALONE?

TO BE CONTINUED...

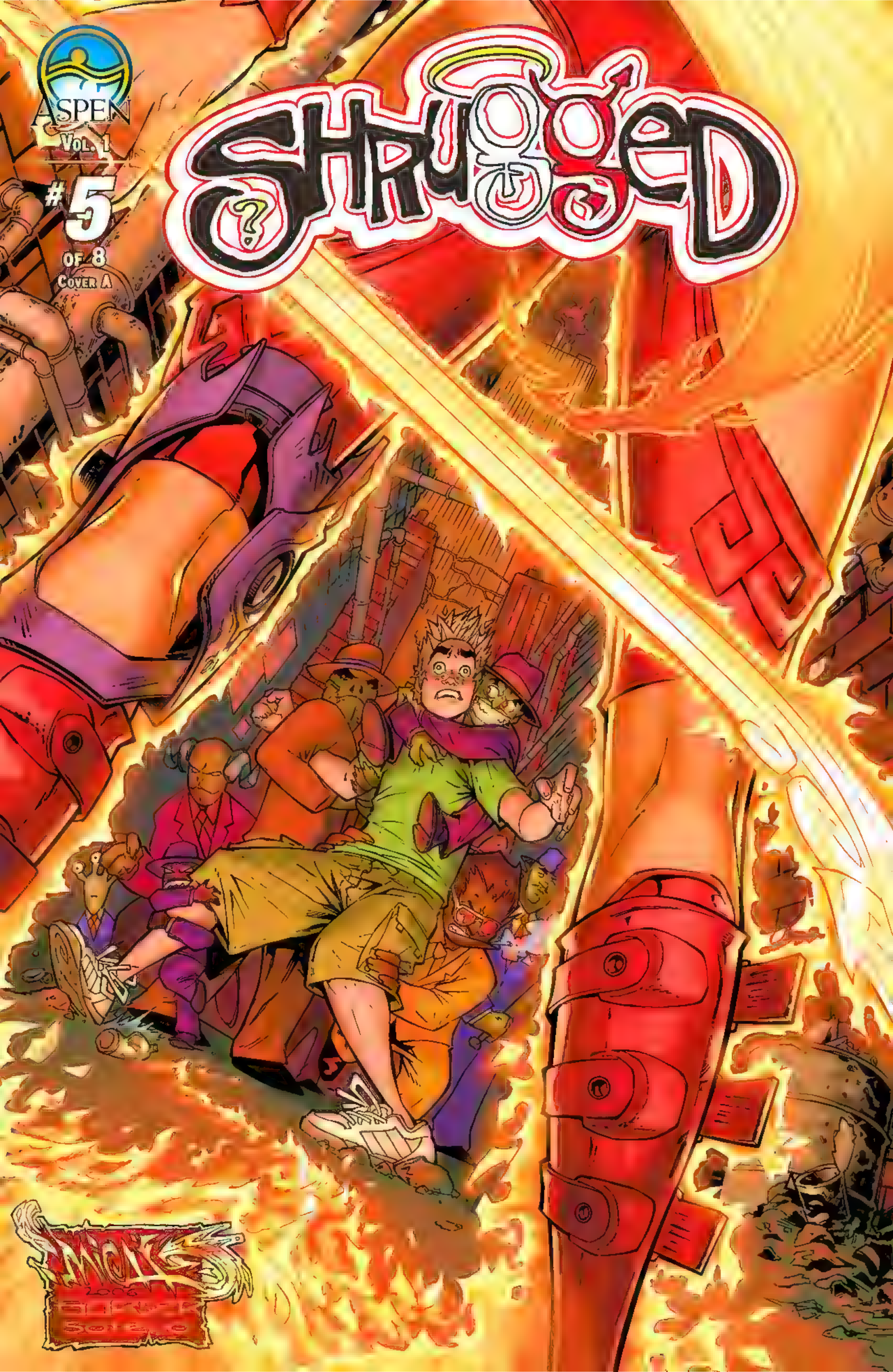


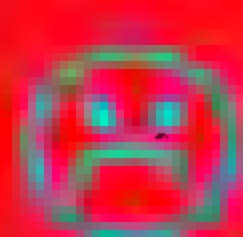
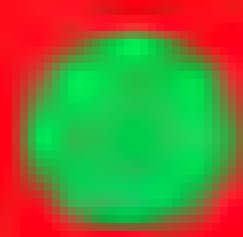
Vol. 1

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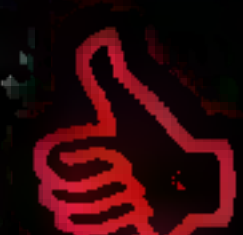
OF 8
COVER A

SHRUGGED





SHRUGGED



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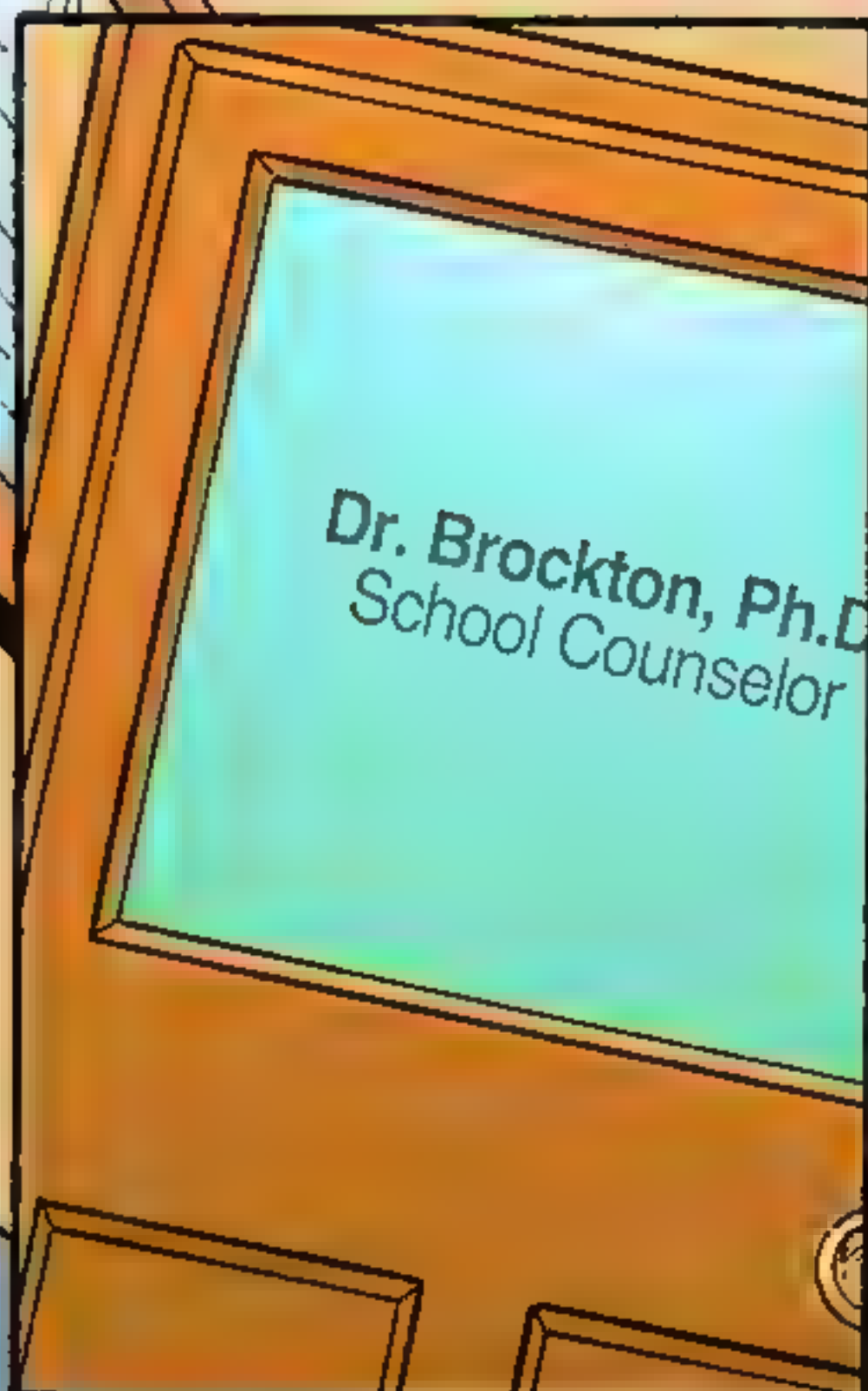
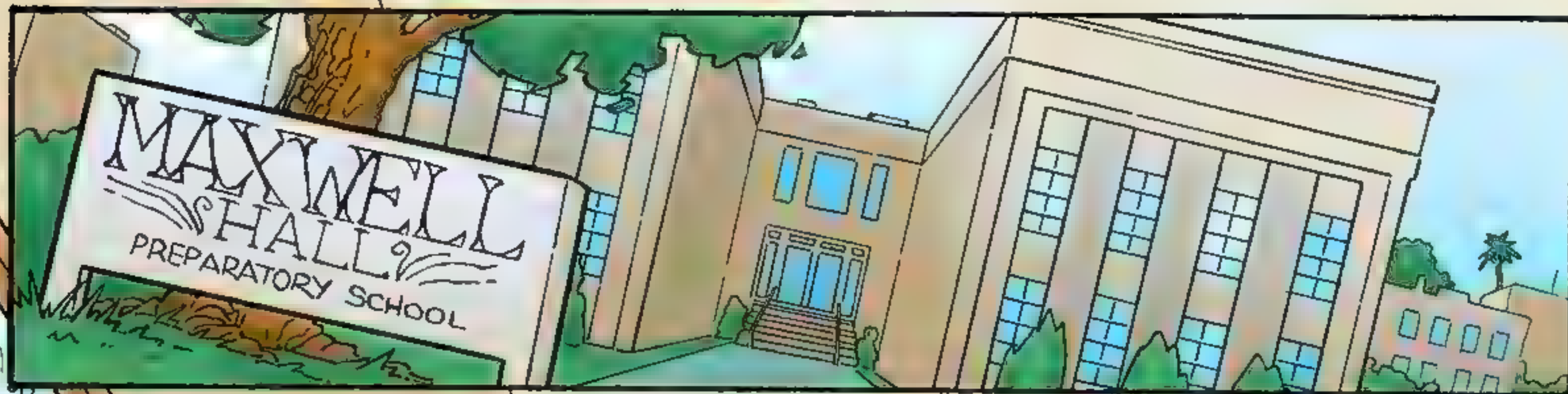
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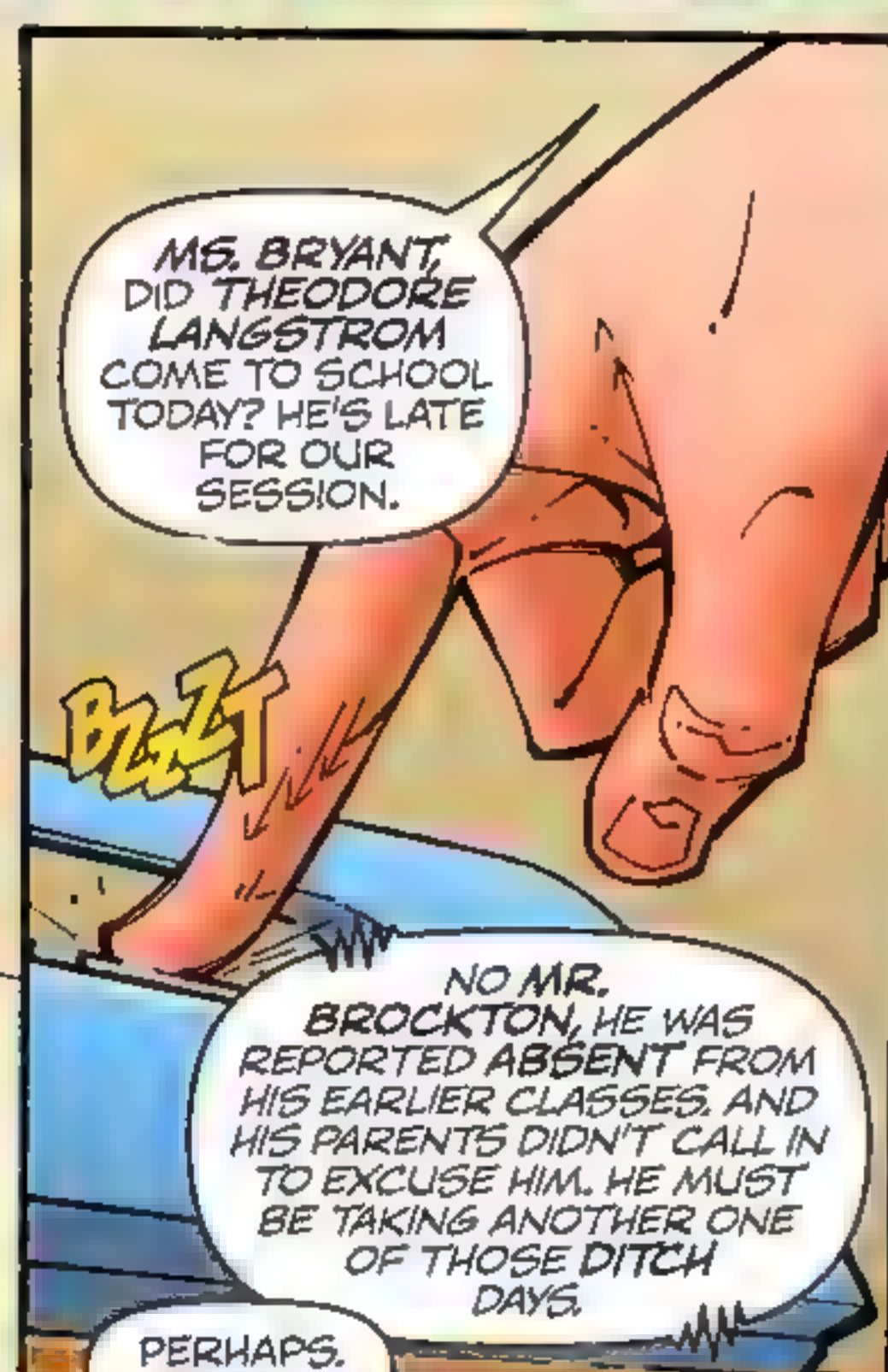
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HMMM...



MS. BRYANT, DID THEODORE LANGSTROM COME TO SCHOOL TODAY? HE'S LATE FOR OUR SESSION.

BZZT

NO MR. BROCKTON, HE WAS REPORTED ABSENT FROM HIS EARLIER CLASSES, AND HIS PARENTS DIDN'T CALL IN TO EXCUSE HIM. HE MUST BE TAKING ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE DITCH DAYS.

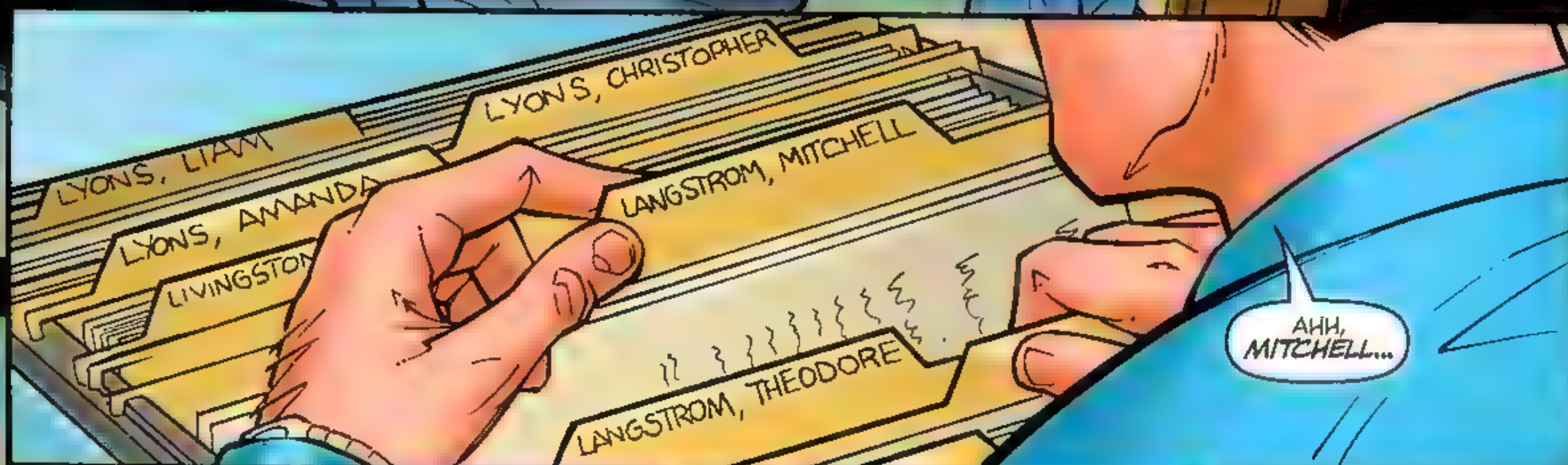
PERHAPS. THANK YOU.



YOU WERE DOING SO WELL, THEO.

NOW MISSING ANOTHER DAY OF SCHOOL.

WHAT GOES ON IN THAT MIND OF YOURS?



LYONS, CHRISTOPHER

LYONS, LIAM

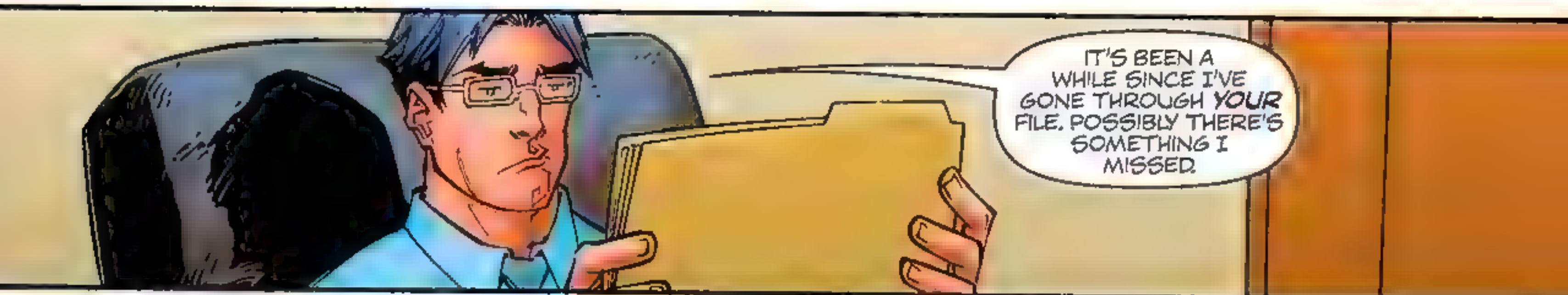
LYONS, AMANDA

LIVINGSTON

LANGSTROM, MITCHELL

LANGSTROM, THEODORE

AHH, MITCHELL...



My brother. Theo, you're my only friend. You're just too young to know the truth. I wish I could stay here with you, to help you, but I'm not strong enough. I'm just not strong enough...

I hope you are. Don't be afraid. Don't be a coward. Don't be... like me.

MITCH

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HAVE DONE MORE FOR YOU MITCHELL. NO MATTER WHAT I TRIED, YOU WOULDN'T LET ME IN.

BUT NOW, I'M FEARFUL FOR YOU THEO.

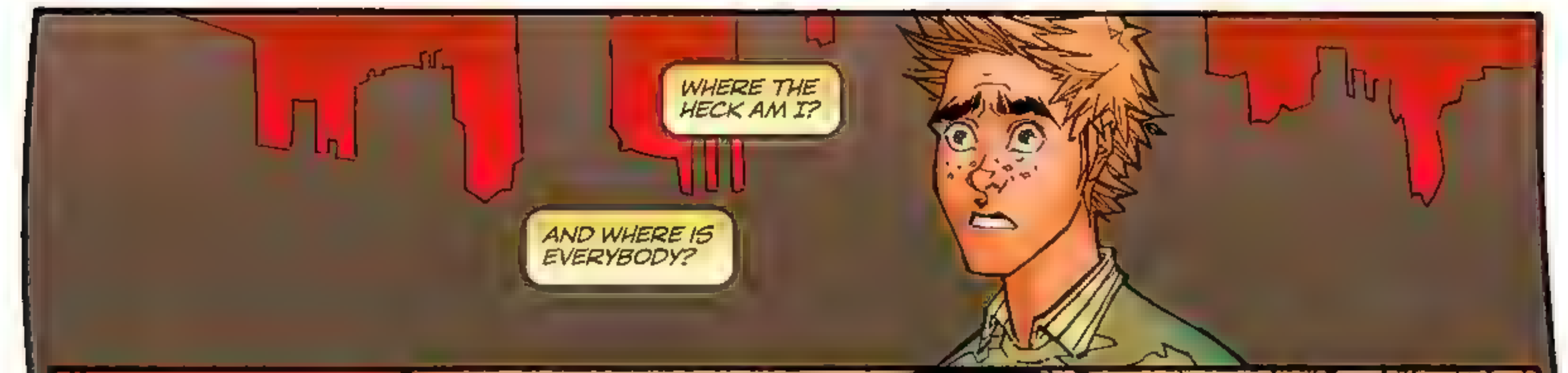
I CANNOT ALLOW ANOTHER TRAGEDY TO OCCUR.

BUT YOU HAVE TO BE HERE FOR ME TO HELP YOU.

SO...

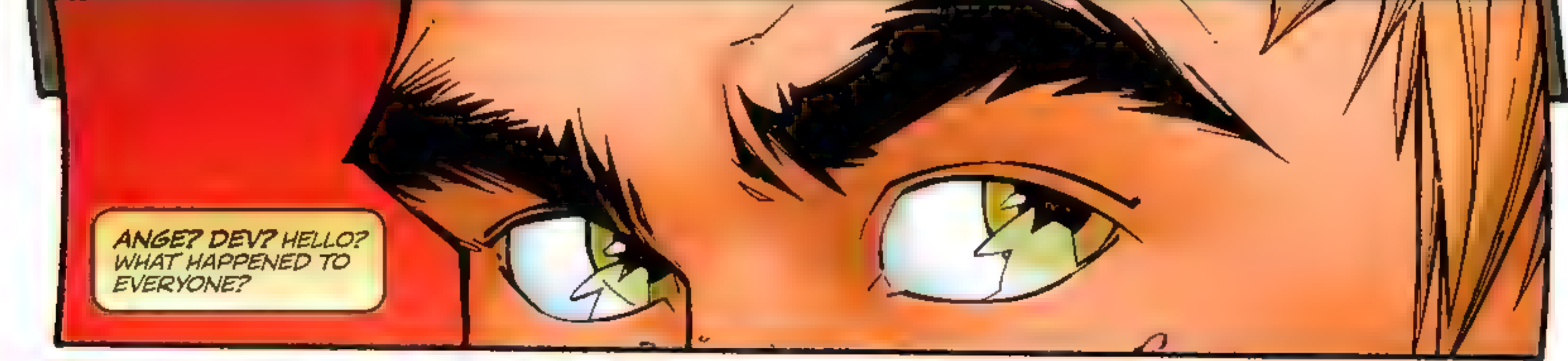


...JUST WHERE
ARE YOU?

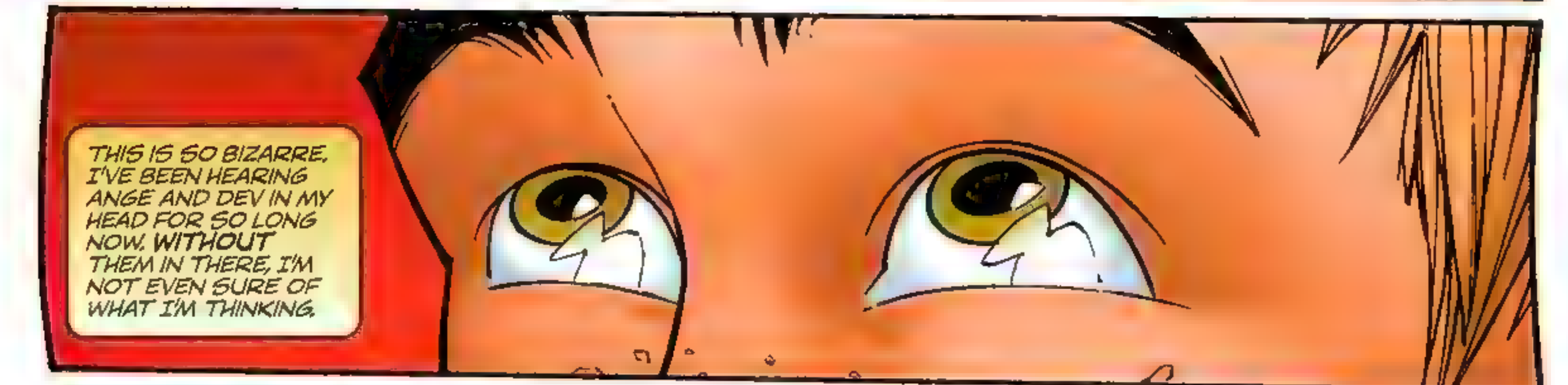


WHERE THE
HECK AM I?

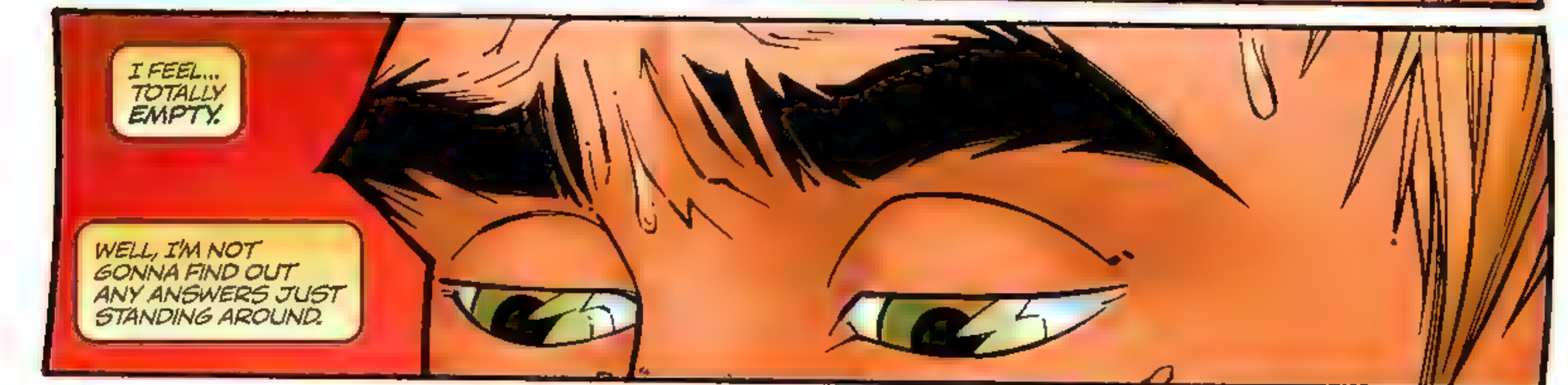
AND WHERE IS
EVERYBODY?



ANGE? DEV? HELLO?
WHAT HAPPENED TO
EVERYONE?



THIS IS SO BIZARRE.
I'VE BEEN HEARING
ANGE AND DEV IN MY
HEAD FOR SO LONG
NOW. WITHOUT
THEM IN THERE, I'M
NOT EVEN SURE OF
WHAT I'M THINKING.



I FEEL...
TOTALLY
EMPTY.

WELL, I'M NOT
GONNA FIND OUT
ANY ANSWERS JUST
STANDING AROUND.



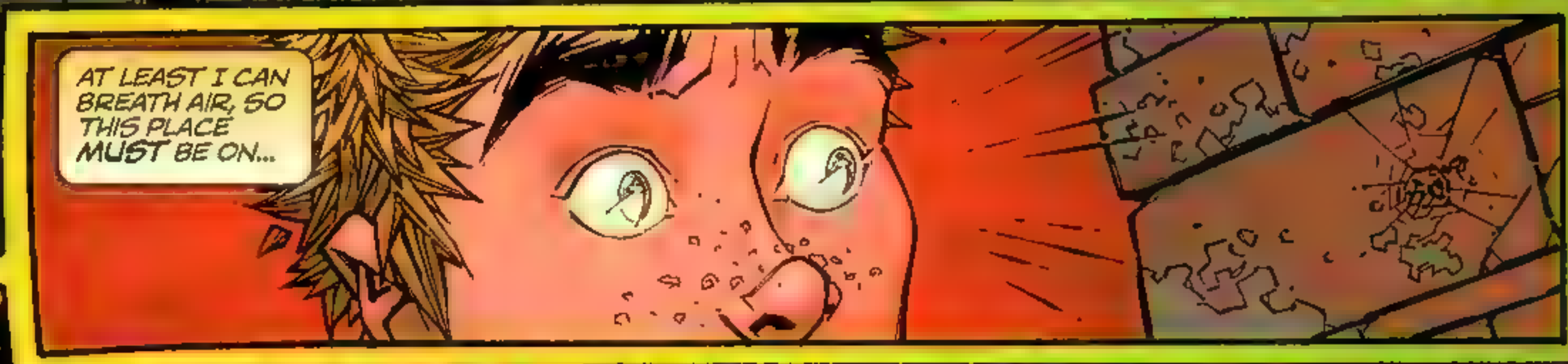
BUT DAMN,
IT SURE IS
HOT HERE.



WHEREVER
HERE IS?



I REMEMBER EVERYTHING GOING BLANK AFTER THAT LIGHT SHOW, BUT... MAN, THIS SURE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE CALI. AM I IN DOWNTOWN LA OR SOMETHING? I THOUGHT THEY WERE RENOVATING...

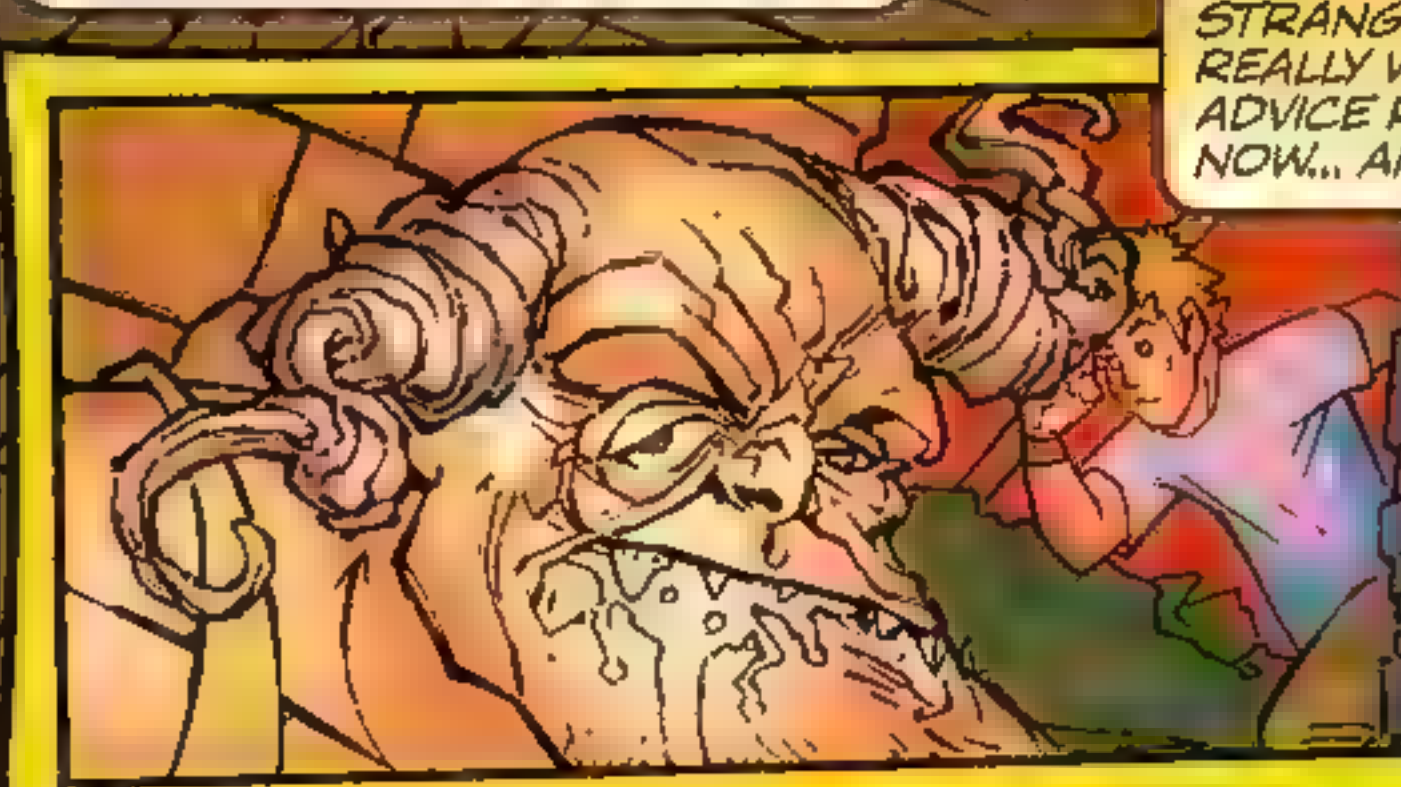


AT LEAST I CAN BREATHE AIR, SO THIS PLACE MUST BE ON...



...EARTH?

OK, I'M STARTING TO GET FREAKED OUT HERE. THIS ISN'T HOME. THIS IS NOWHERE NEAR HOME! WHAT AM I GONNA DO?



STRANGE, BUT I WOULD REALLY WELCOME SOME ADVICE RIGHT ABOUT NOW... ANGE? DEV?



WHERE ARE YOU TWO?

ELYSIAN TRANSFERSCENDING
CHAMBER RETURN FACILITY.

OH, MY
GOODNESS...
I AM BACK IN
ELYSIA!

I REQUIRE
YOUR HELP RIGHT
AWAY PLEASE. I SHOULD
NOT BE BACK HERE
YET. THIS IS NOT
RIGHT.

IT'S NO
PROBLEM DEAR.
YOU'LL BE FINE. IT'S
ALWAYS DIFFICULT
ON YOUR FIRST
RETURN.

NO, YOU DO
NOT UNDERSTAND.
MY TIME WAS CUT
SHORT
UNEXPECTEDLY!

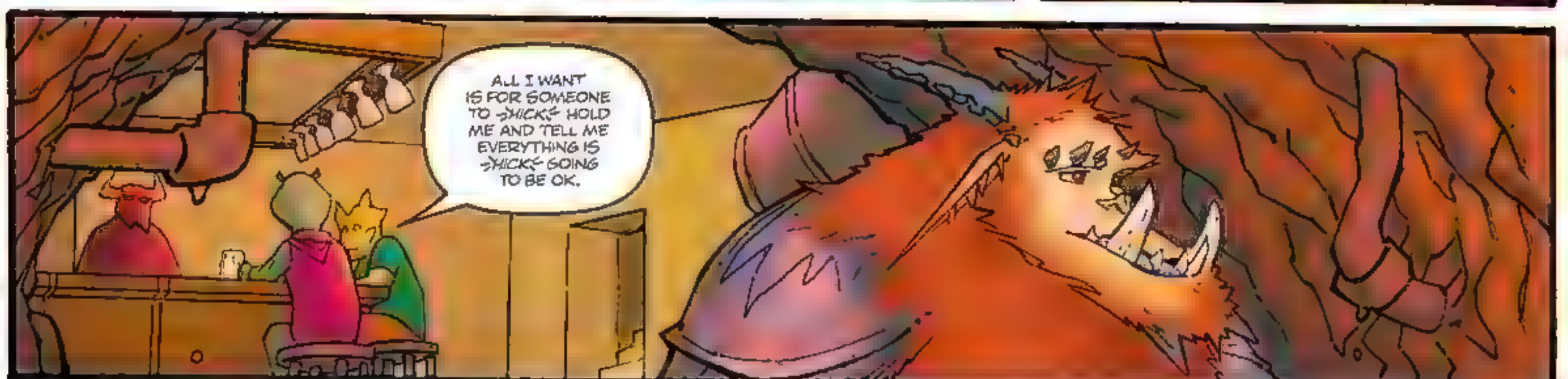
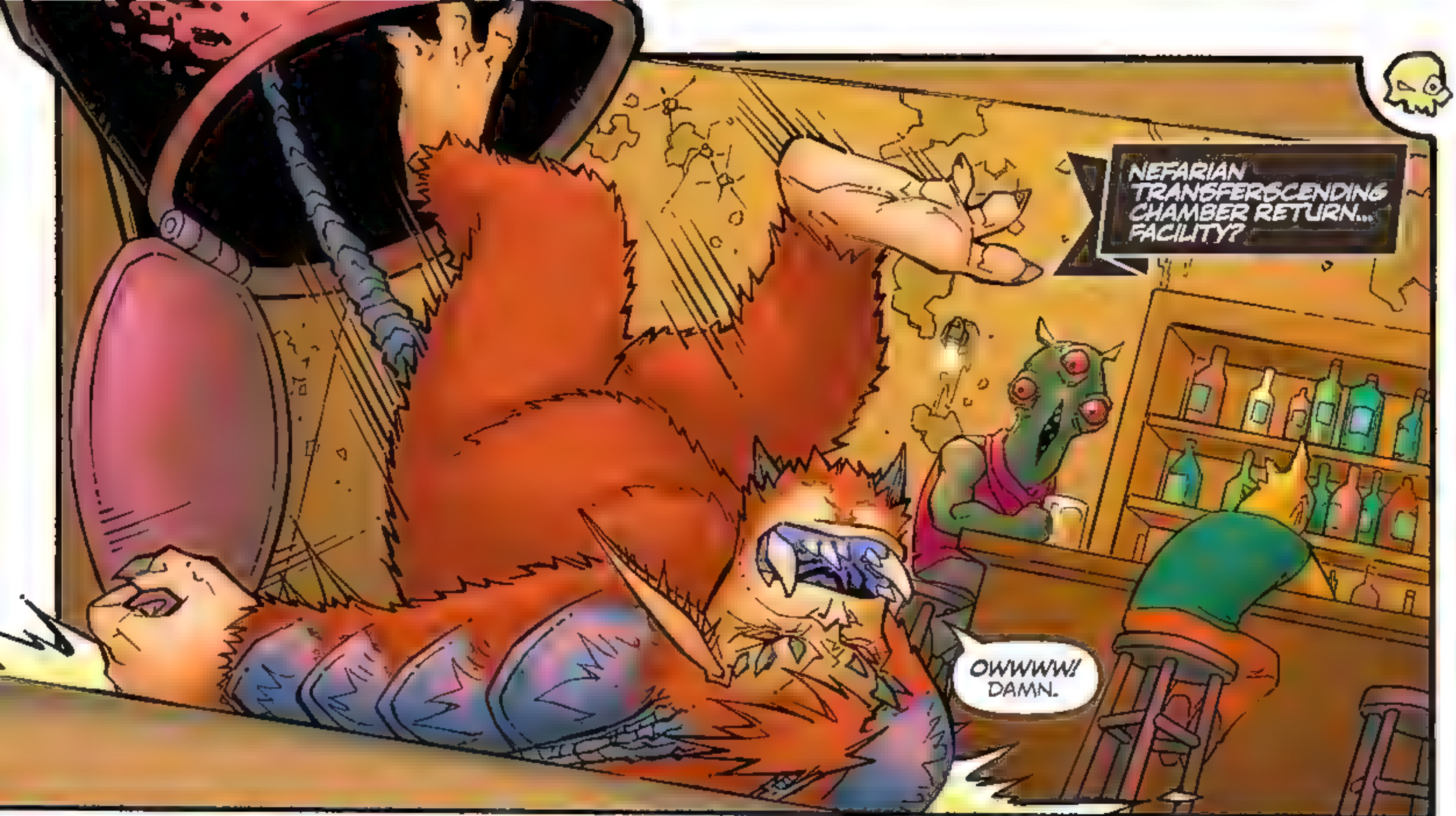
MY HOST, HE
IS DIFFERENT. I
THINK HE IS...
HERE.

YES, DEAR.
WE'RE ALL
HERE. I
COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND.
PLEASE MOVE
ALONG.

NO, WAIT.

YOU DO NOT
UNDERSTAND.

I NEED TO FIND
MARINA. SHE WILL
KNOW WHAT TO DO.





NICE...

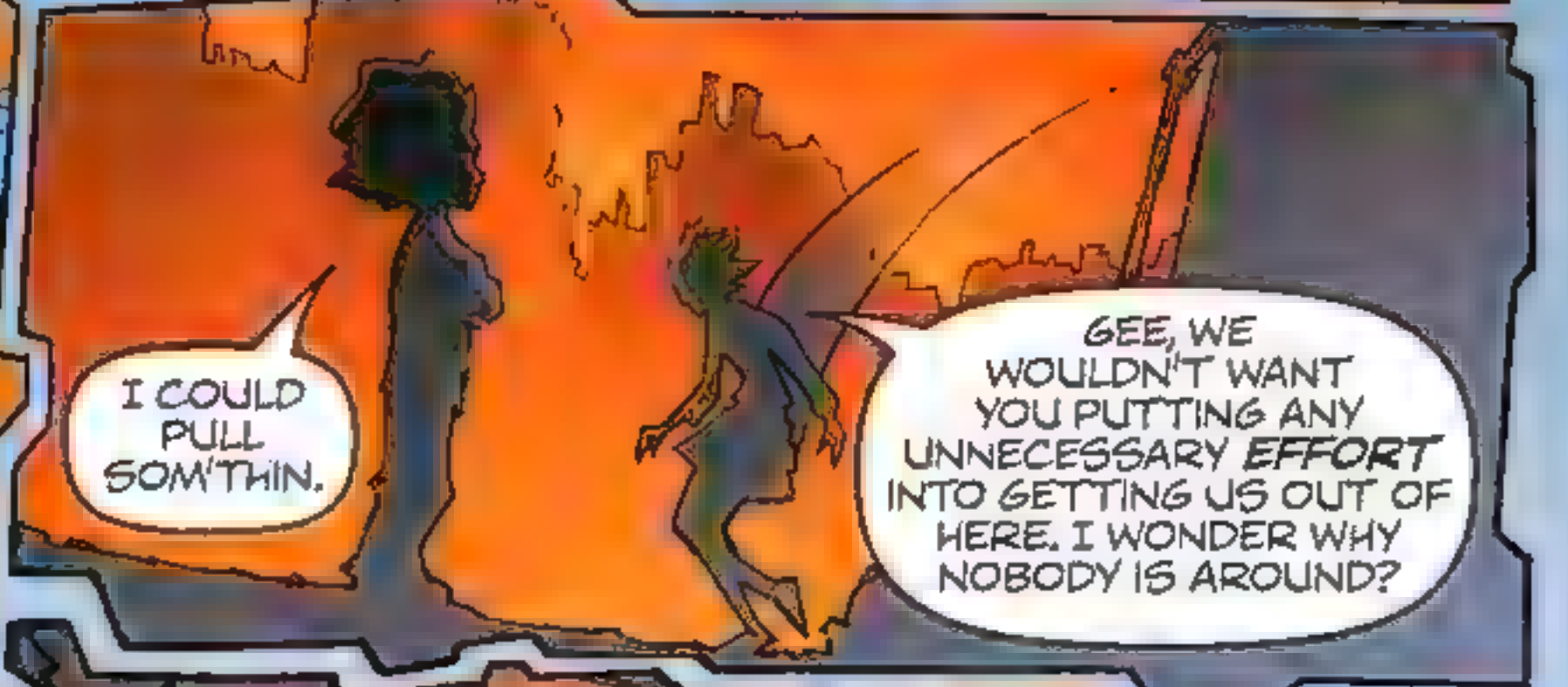
SOMEWHERE
IN NEFARIO.

AT LEAST
THE VIEW FROM
DOWN HERE'S
A'IGHT.

ENJOY IT WHILE
YOU CAN, I'LL BE
STARING AT *YOUR* ASS
IN JUST A FEW SECONDS
WHEN YOU'RE UP HERE
TRYING TO CLIMB THIS
WALL.



AU CONTRAIRE
MON AMI. IT SEEMS
LIKE THIS WALL GOES
ON *FOREVER*. YOU AIN'T
GONNA SEE MY SKINNY
BEHIND TRYING TO
SCALE THAT BAD
BOY.



I COULD
PULL
SOM'THIN.

GEE, WE
WOULDN'T WANT
YOU PUTTING ANY
UNNECESSARY *EFFORT*
INTO GETTING US OUT OF
HERE. I WONDER WHY
NOBODY IS AROUND?



NOT SURE,
BUT I'VE GOT
AN IDEA.

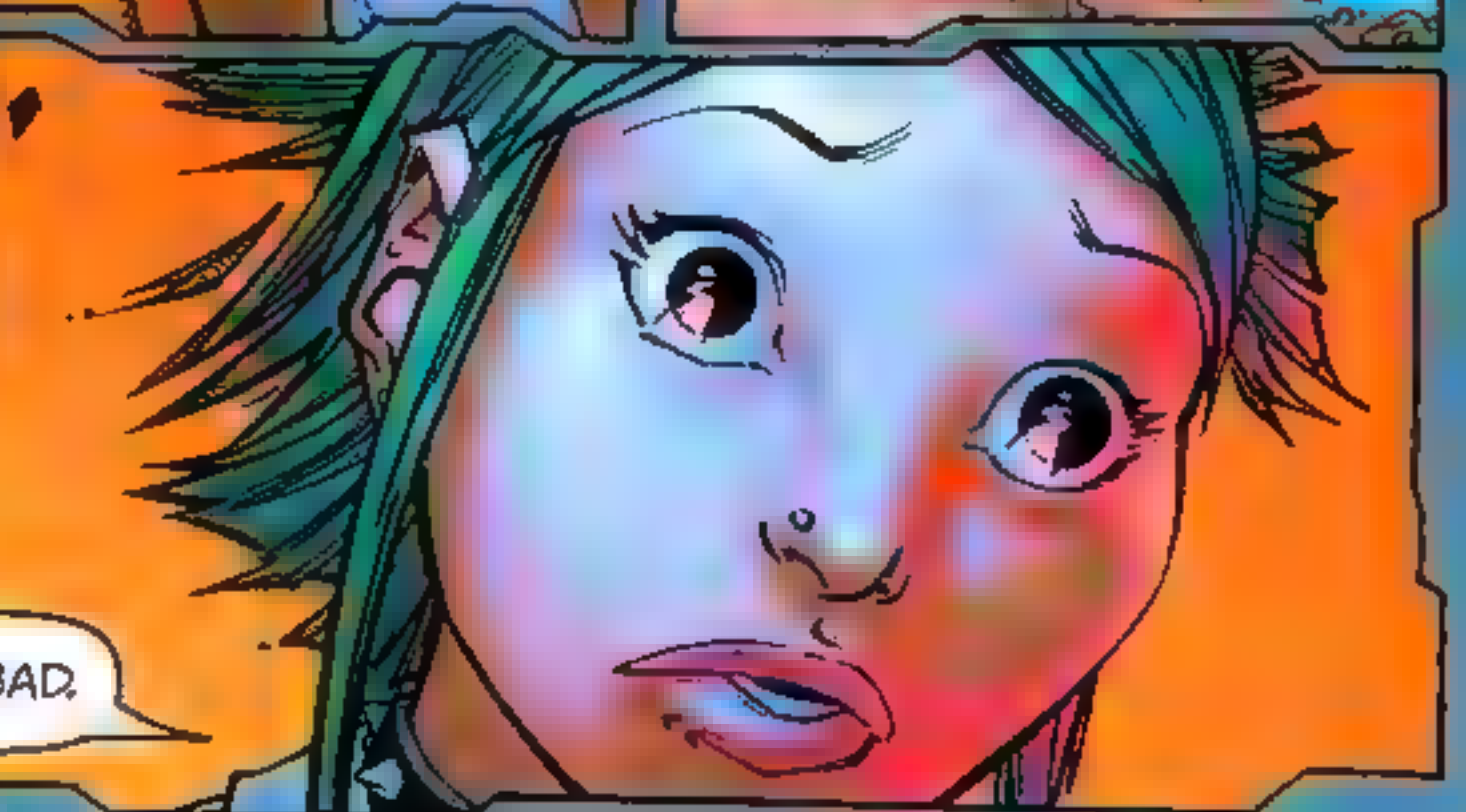
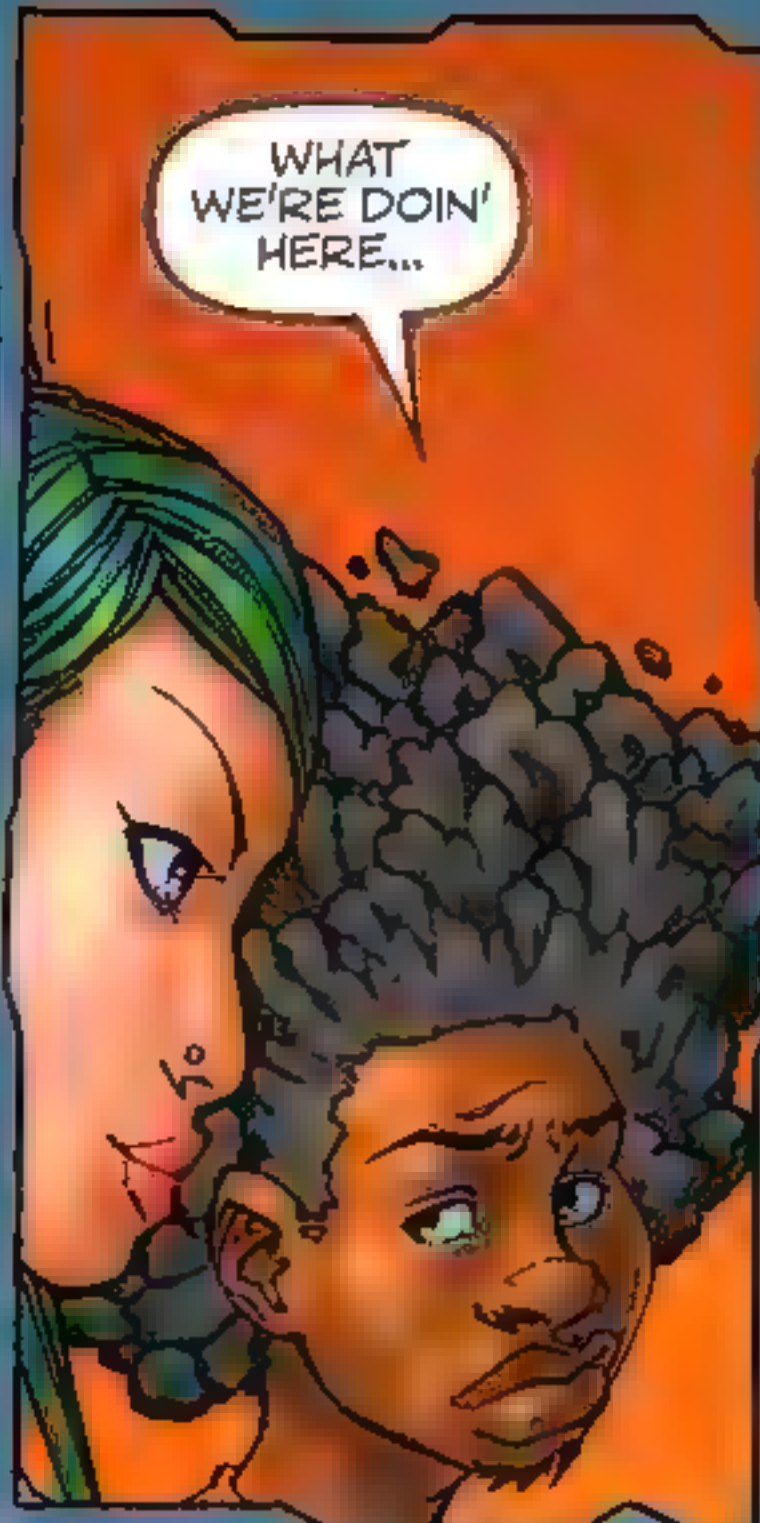
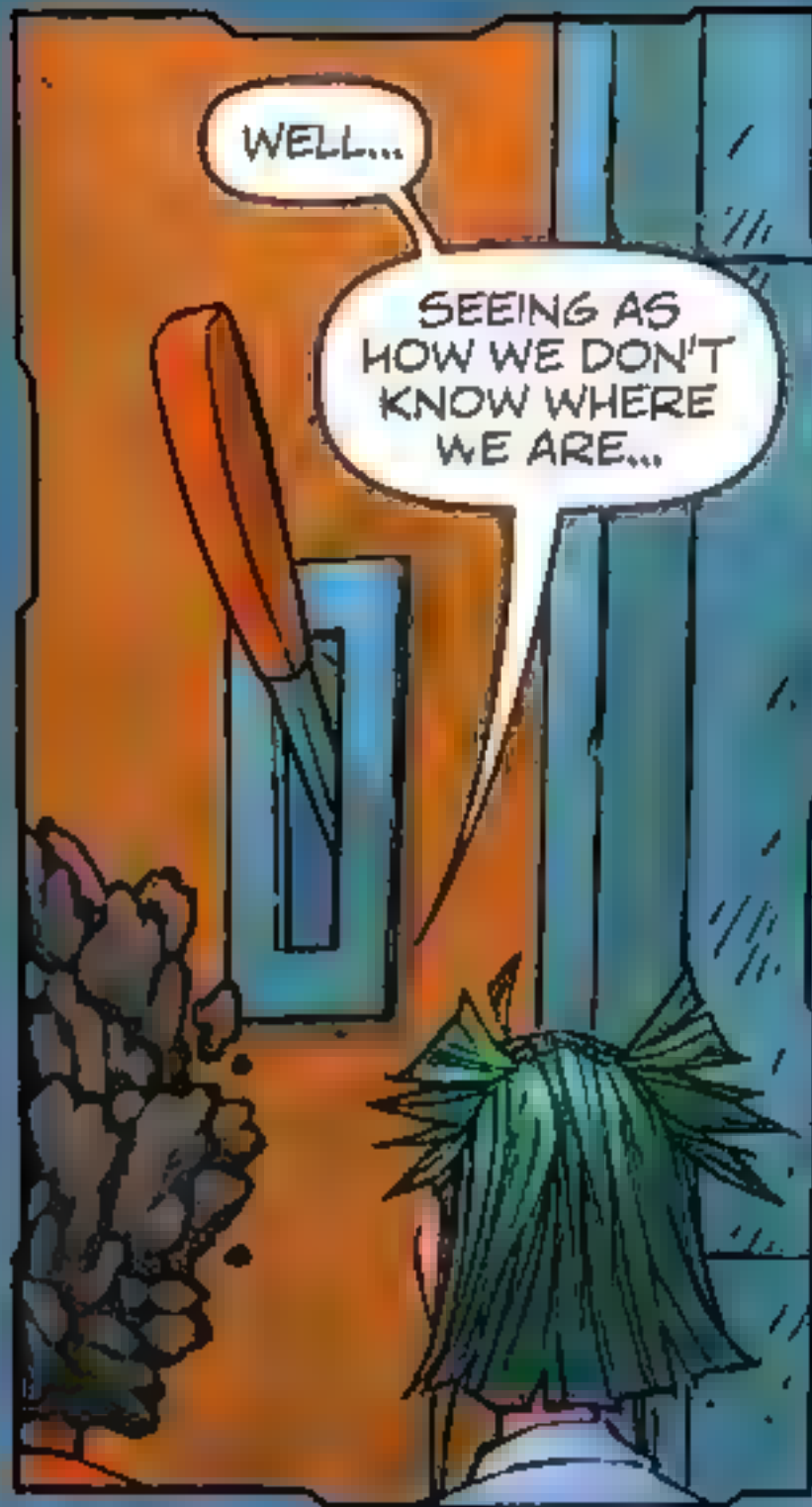


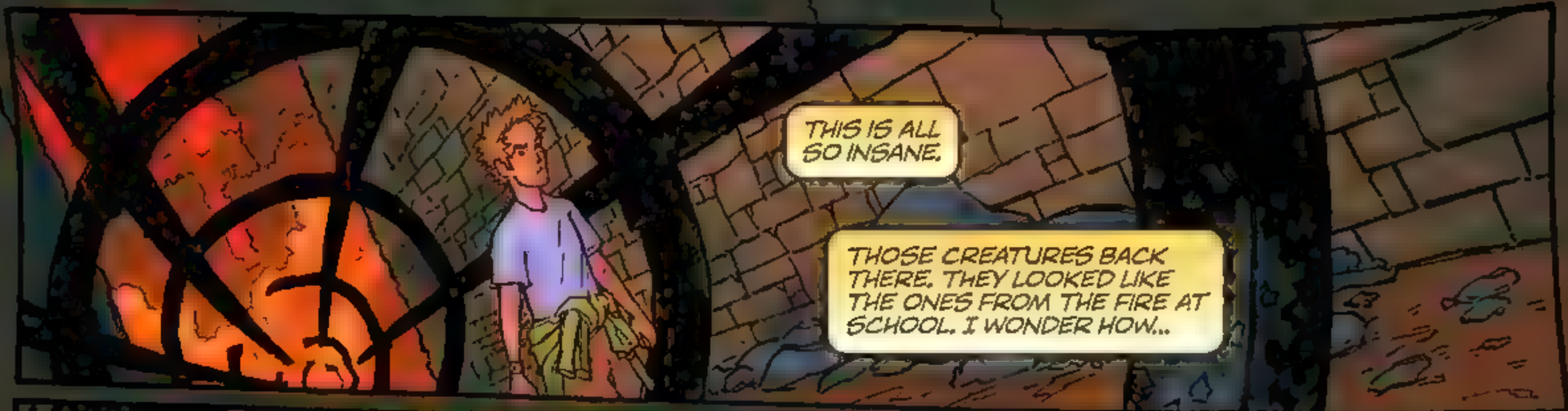
DON'T YOU
THINK THAT'S A
TAD BIT *OBVIOUS*?
A BIG SWITCH ON AN
EMPTY WALL?

YEAH, BUT
IT'S JUST SITTIN'
THERE, STARING
AT US...



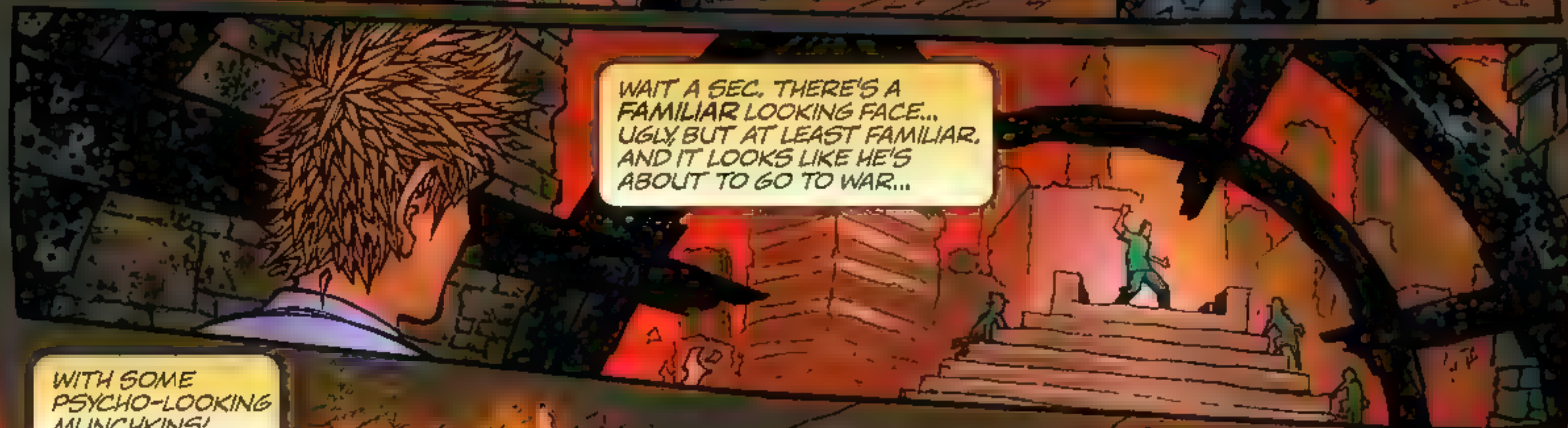
BUT WE
DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT IT
DOES?





THIS IS ALL
SO INSANE.

THOSE CREATURES BACK
THERE. THEY LOOKED LIKE
THE ONES FROM THE FIRE AT
SCHOOL. I WONDER HOW...



WAIT A SEC. THERE'S A
FAMILIAR LOOKING FACE...
UGLY, BUT AT LEAST FAMILIAR.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S
ABOUT TO GO TO WAR...

WITH SOME
PSYCHO-LOOKING
MUNCHKINS!



HE HE, NO
PLACE TO RUN,
WALKER.

HUNGRY?
WE'RE SERVIN'
KNUCKLE
SANDWICHES!

AW, C'MON
MAN, WE JUST
WANT TO TALK.
REALLY.

IT'S
CURTAINS FOR
YOU BOY,
CURTAINS!

WE'RE
COMING TA
TAKE YOU AWAY
HA HA.

I'M GONNA
STING YOU LIKE A
BUTTERFLY AND
FLOAT LIKE A
BEE...UM, YEAH.

YOU'RE
LUGGAGE PAL.



COME
PEACEFULLY OR
WE TAKE YA IN
PIECES, WALKER!

HOPE YOUR
FAVORITE
NUMBER IS
911!



I'M LOSING
MY DAMN MIND!
WHAT THE HELL ARE
YOU THINGS? AND
HOW DO YOU KNOW
MY NAME?

GET AWAY
FROM ME YOU
FREAKS!

WHOA. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, I'M NOT SURE HOW TO REACT TO THIS. NORMALLY MY THOUGHTS ARE BEING SWAYED IN ONE DIRECTION OR ANOTHER, BUT RIGHT NOW, NOTHING. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

IF IT WERE DEV'S DECISION, HE'D SAY LET WALKER GET WHAT HE DESERVES. AFTER ALL THE CRAP THAT PUNK HAS GIVEN ME, IT'S ABOUT TIME HE GETS A DOSE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE.

BUT ANGE WOULD WANT ME TO HELP OUT, REGARDLESS WHAT TYPE OF PERSON WALKER IS. EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE, SHE WOULD URGE THAT THOSE DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE SET ASIDE IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS.

WHAT REALLY SUCKS IS THAT NEITHER ONE OF THEM ARE HERE RIGHT NOW, SO THIS ONE'S ALL UP TO ME.

DAMN.

HOLD ON, WHAT AM I SAYING? THIS IS MY CHANCE TO FINALLY TAKE CHARGE. AFTER LISTENING TO ANGE AND DEV FOR SO LONG, I FORGOT WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE IN CONTROL OF MY OWN THOUGHTS.

AND IT FEELS GREAT!

UH OH. HERE COME MORE OF THOSE LITTLE CREEPS. WHATEVER I'M GONNA DO, I BETTER ACT QUICK.

YO WALKER!!

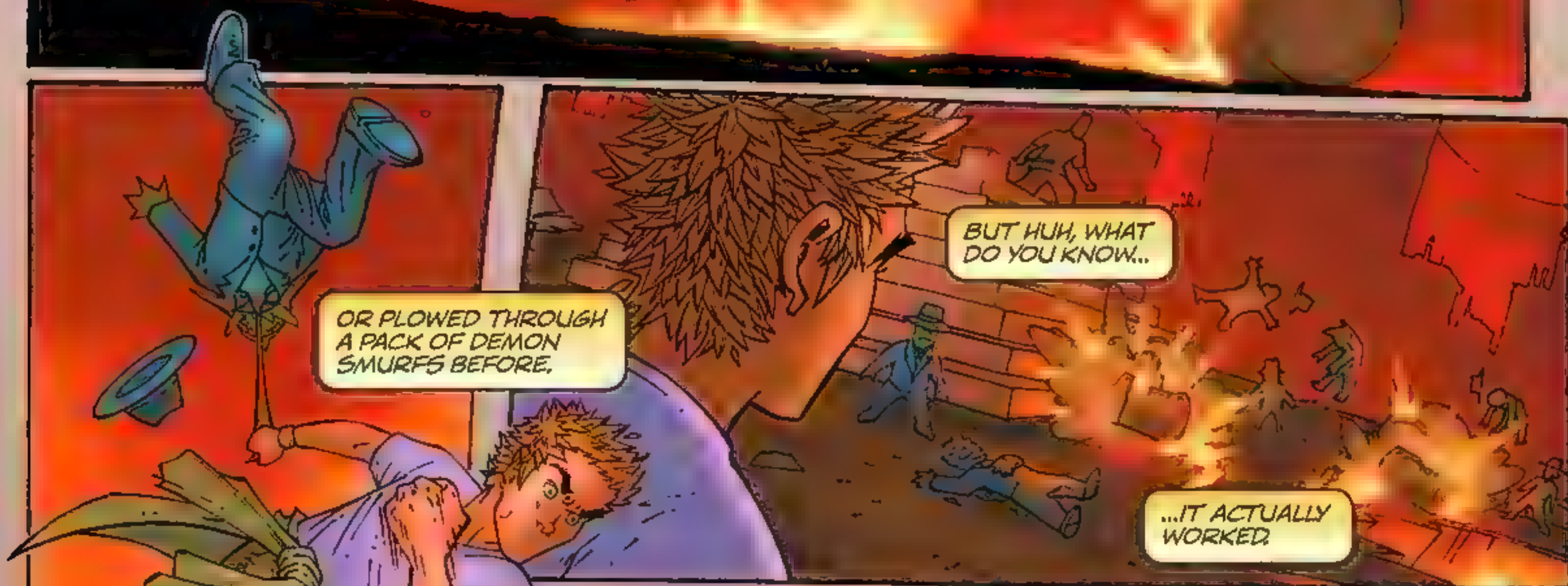


HEADS UP!!



HERE GOES
NOTHING.

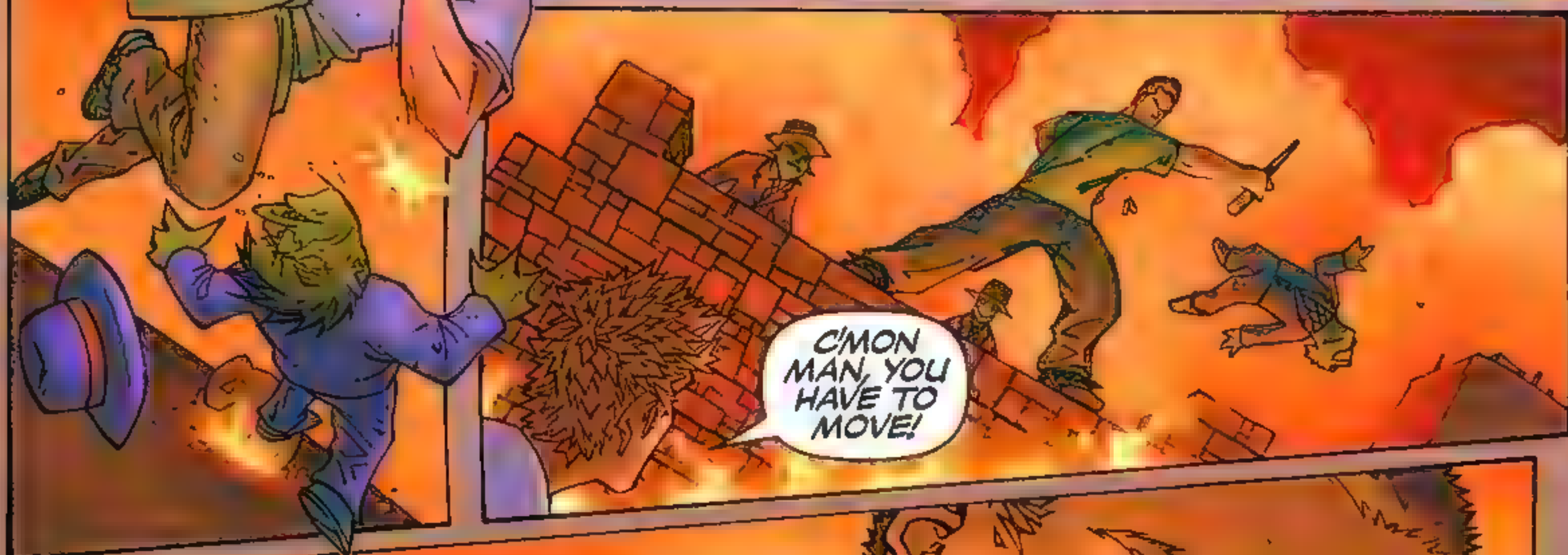
CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER
FLUNG ROLLING
BARRELS OF FIRE...



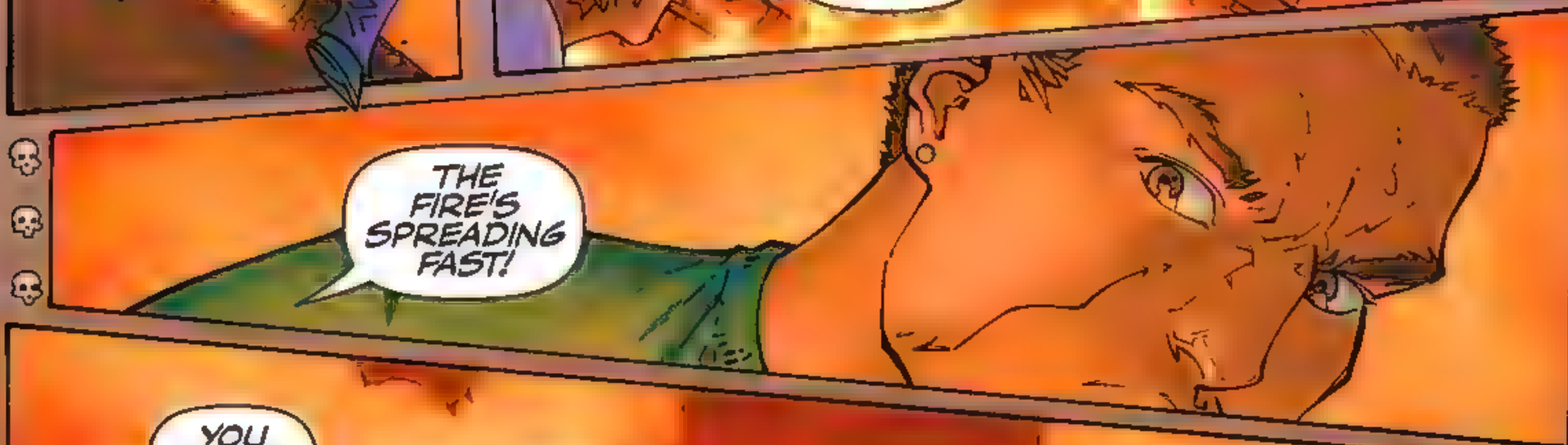
OR PLOWED THROUGH
A PACK OF DEMON
SMURFS BEFORE.

BUT HUH, WHAT
DO YOU KNOW...

...IT ACTUALLY
WORKED.



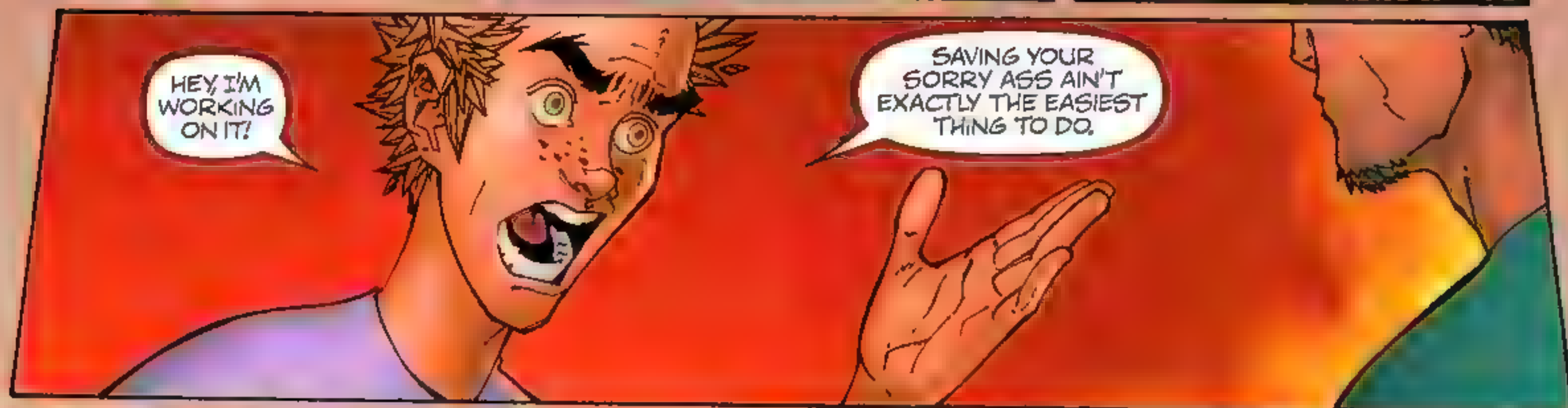
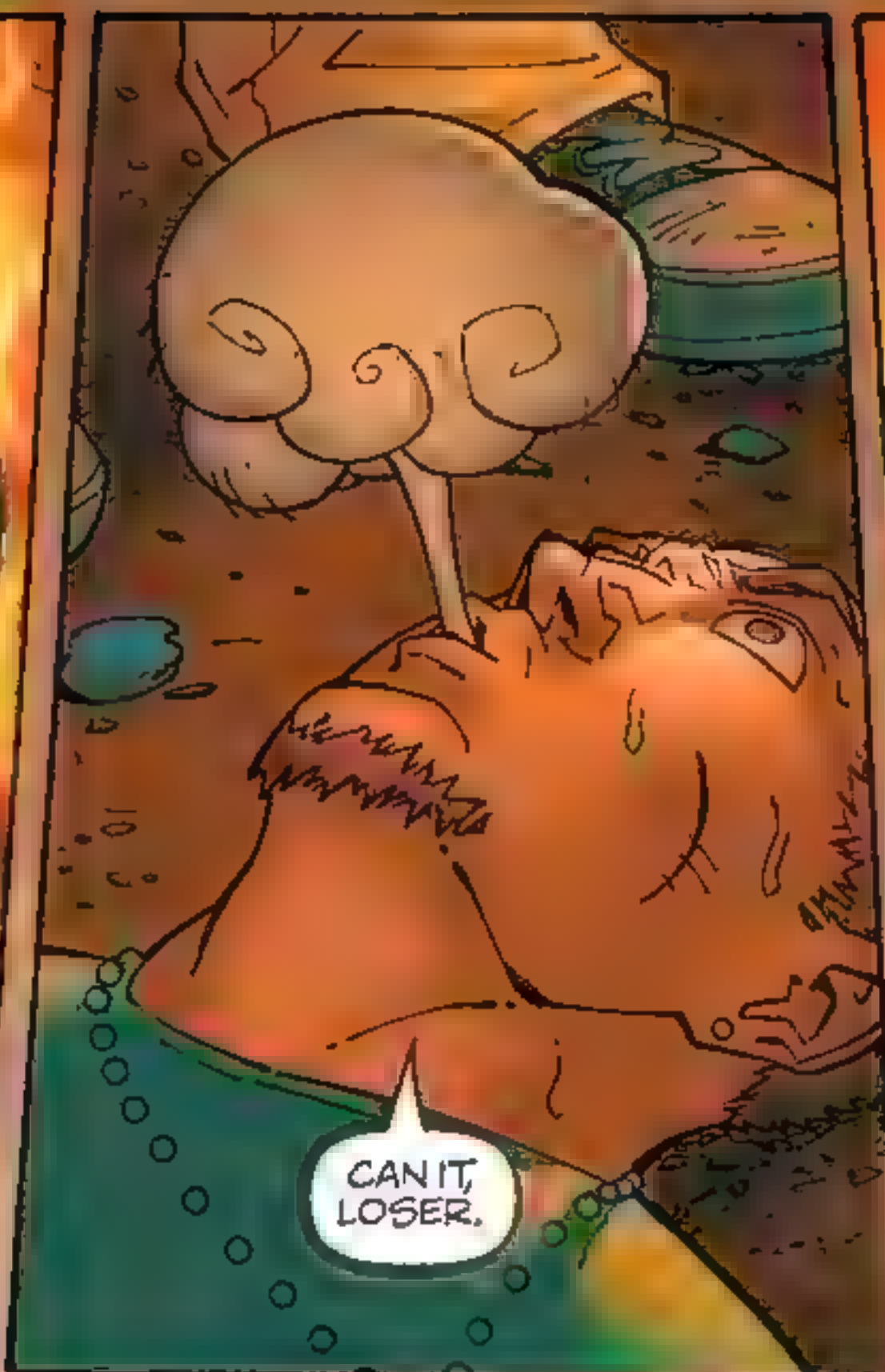
C'MON
MAN, YOU
HAVE TO
MOVE!

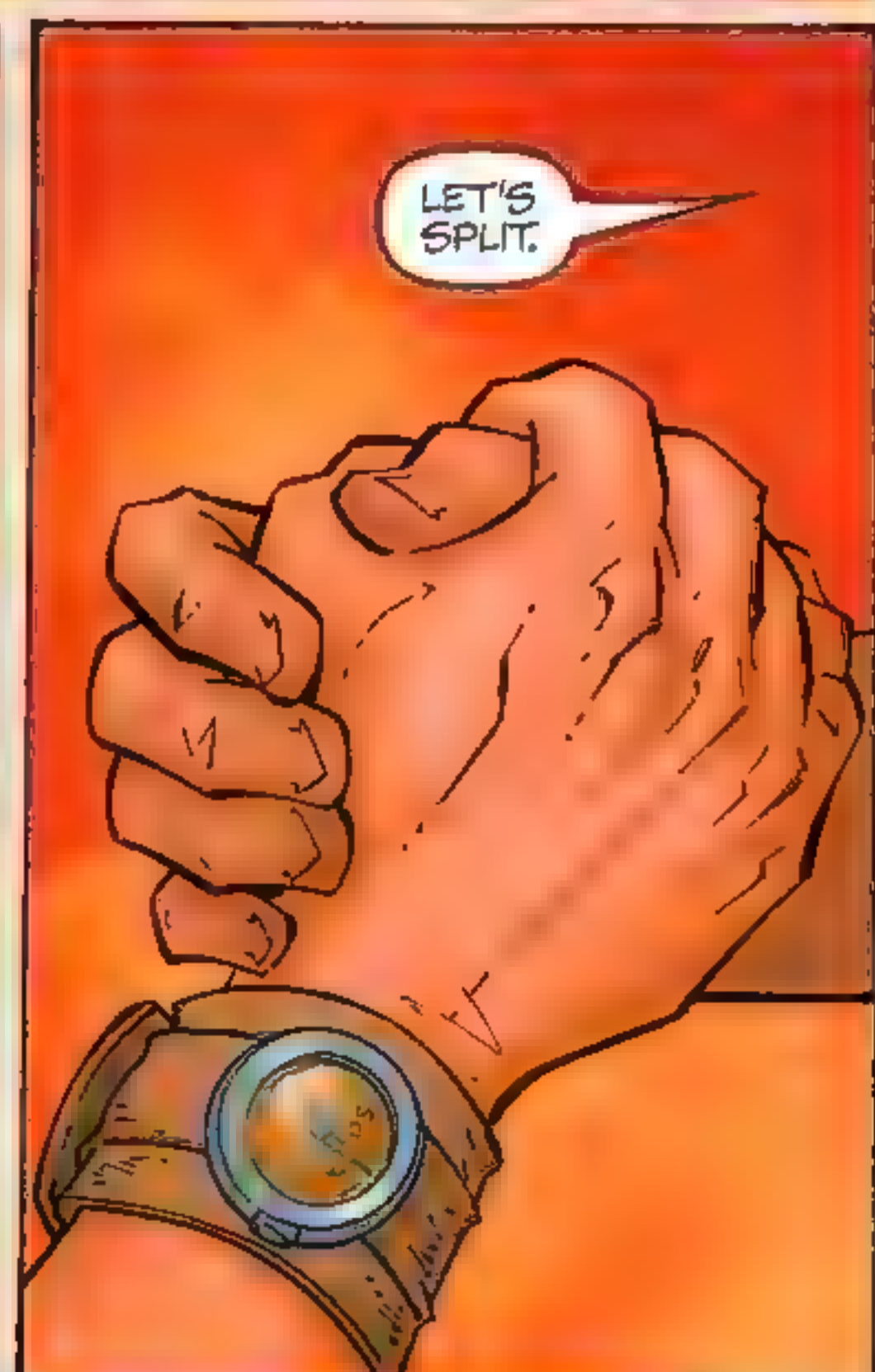
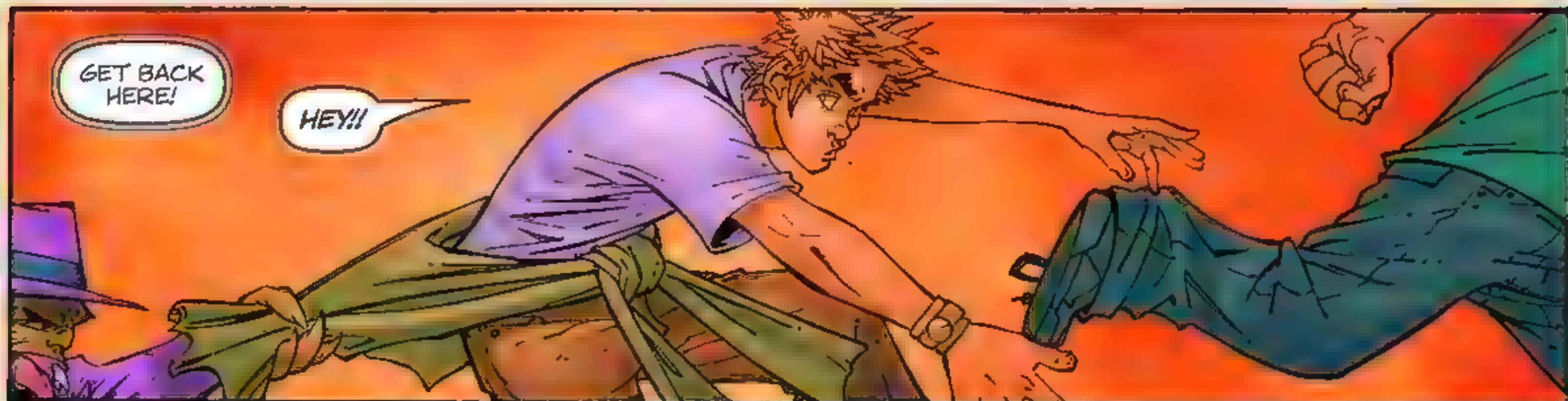


THE
FIRE'S
SPREADING
FAST!



YOU
GOTTA
JUMP!







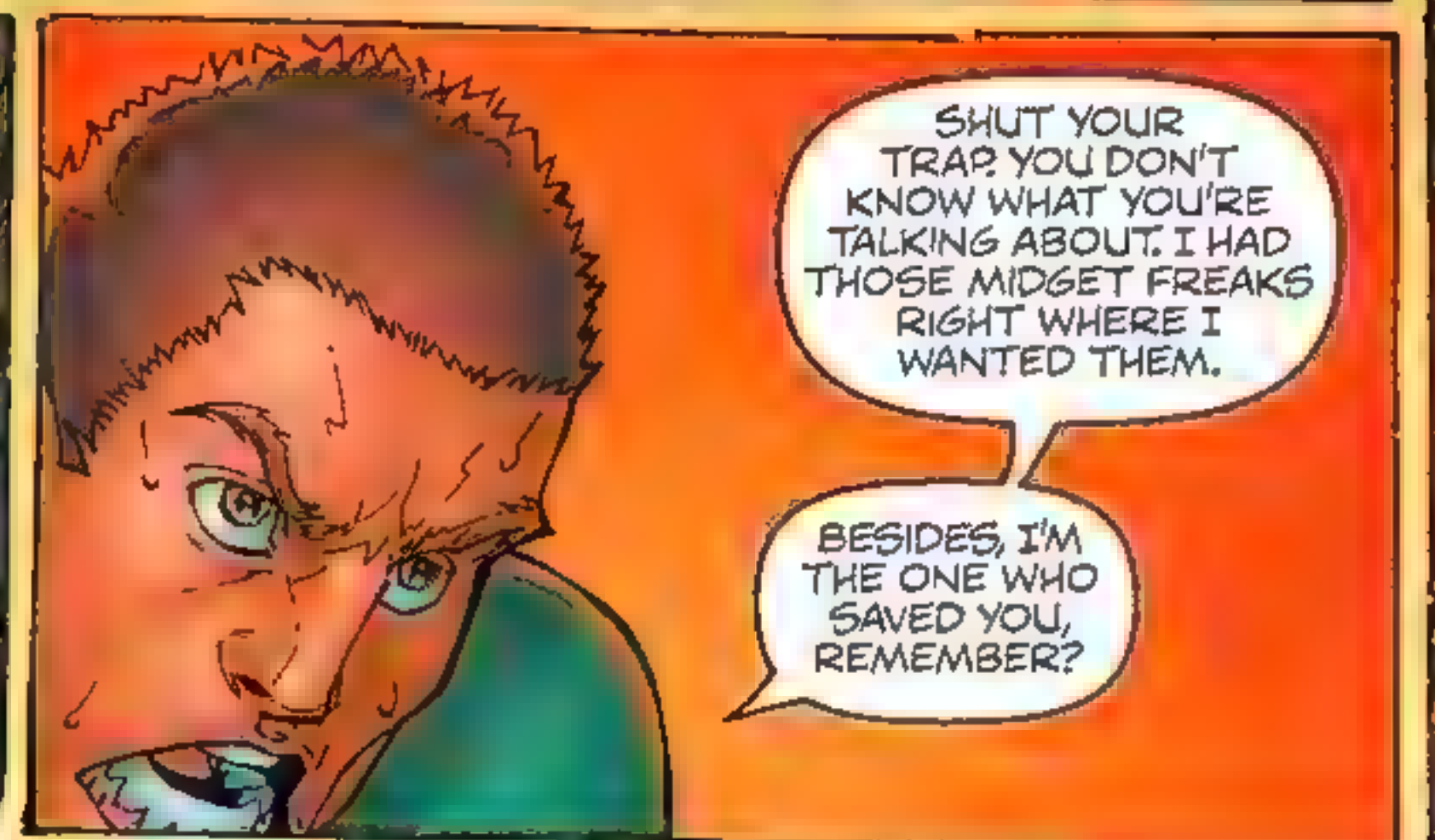
HOLD UP, I GOTTA REST.

WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING, WE SHOULD BE CLEAR SOON.



CHILL MAN, I AIN'T NO TRACK PANSY YA KNOW.

YEAH, I KNOW. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE LUCKY I ROLLED UP ON YOU WHEN I DID. I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD HAVE LASTED MUCH LONGER.

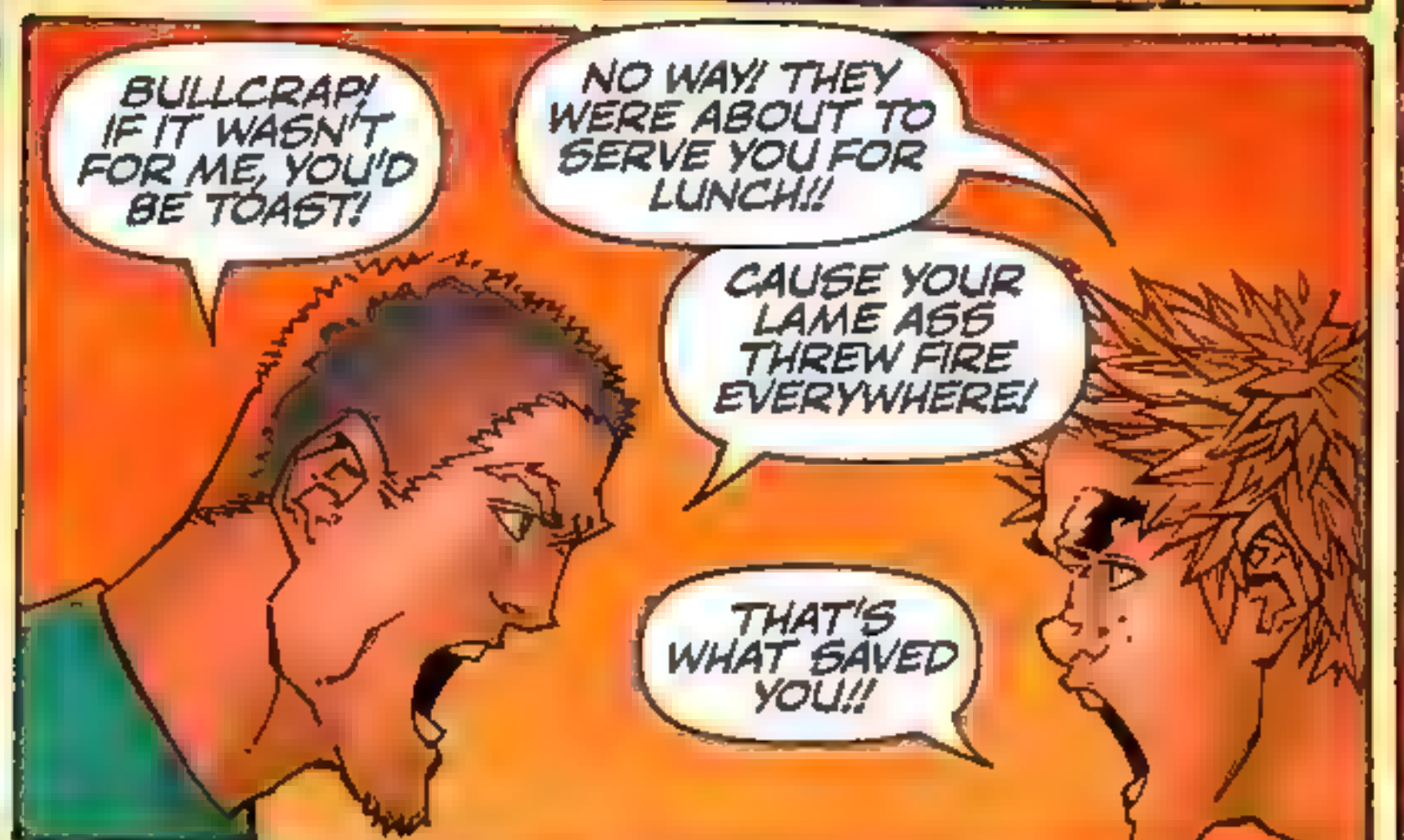


SHUT YOUR TRAP, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I HAD THOSE MIDGET FREAKS RIGHT WHERE I WANTED THEM.

BESIDES, I'M THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU, REMEMBER?



WHAT?!? YOU WERE GETTING TRASHED, I SAVED YOU!



BULLCRAP! IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, YOU'D BE TOAST!

NO WAY! THEY WERE ABOUT TO SERVE YOU FOR LUNCH!!

CAUSE YOUR LAME ASS THREW FIRE EVERYWHERE!

THAT'S WHAT SAVED YOU!!

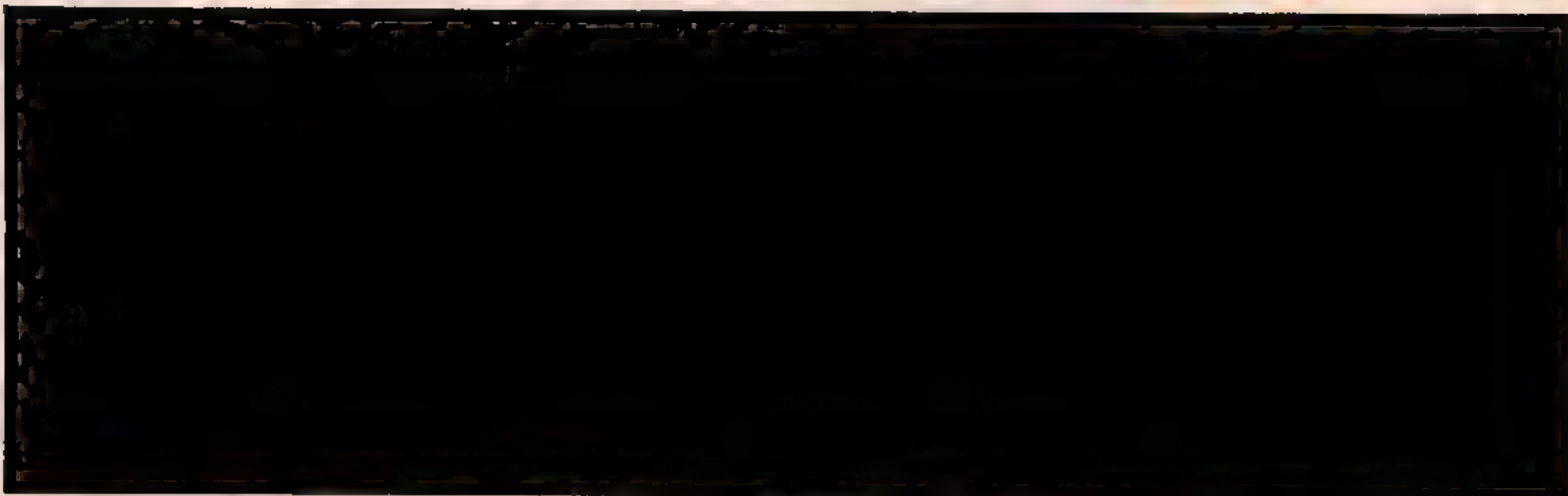
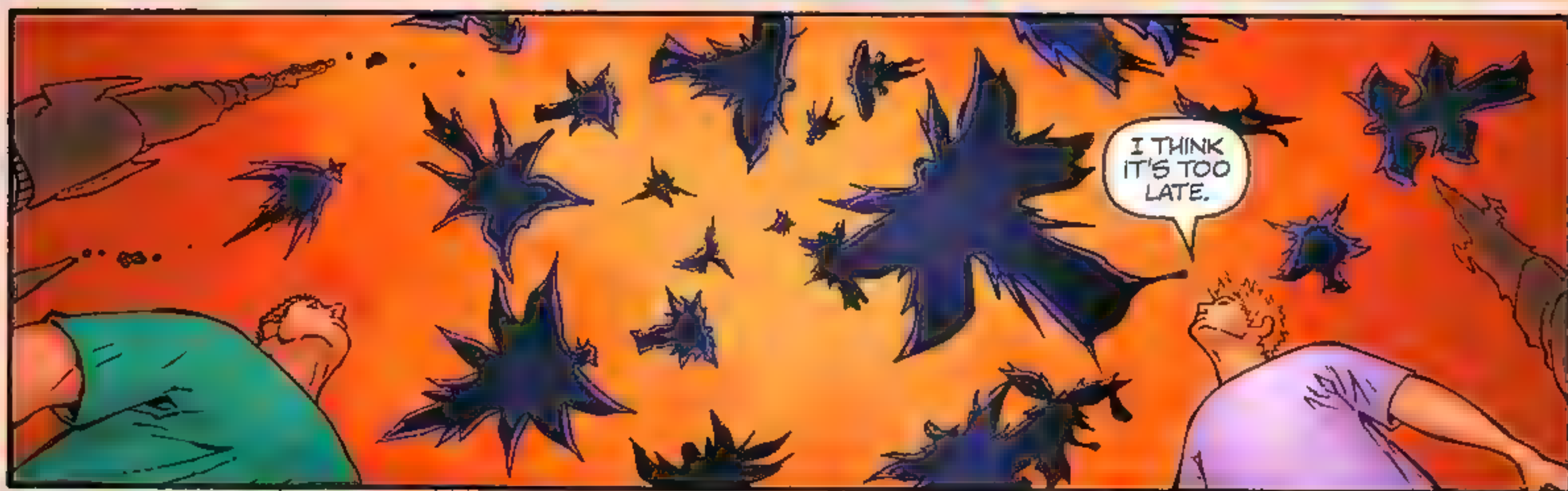
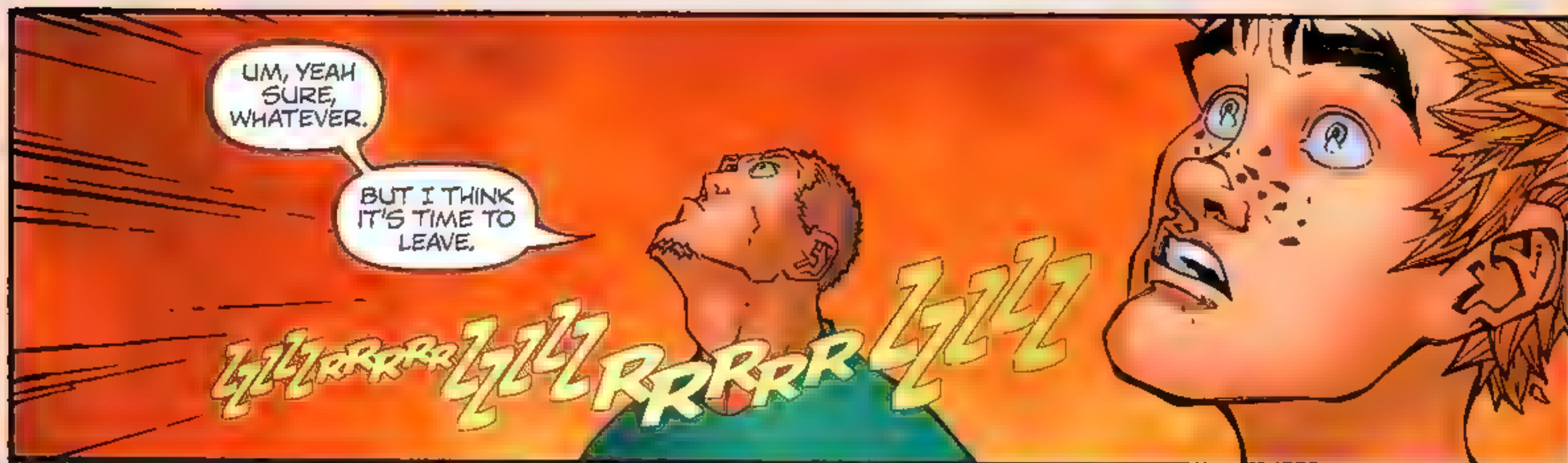


LOOK, LET'S JUST FORGET IT, ALRIGHT? WE HELPED OUT EACH OTHER, SO I GUESS THAT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING.

IF WE STOP ARGUING FOR A MINUTE, WE CAN TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHERE WE ARE AND HOW TO GET OUTTA HERE.

COOL?

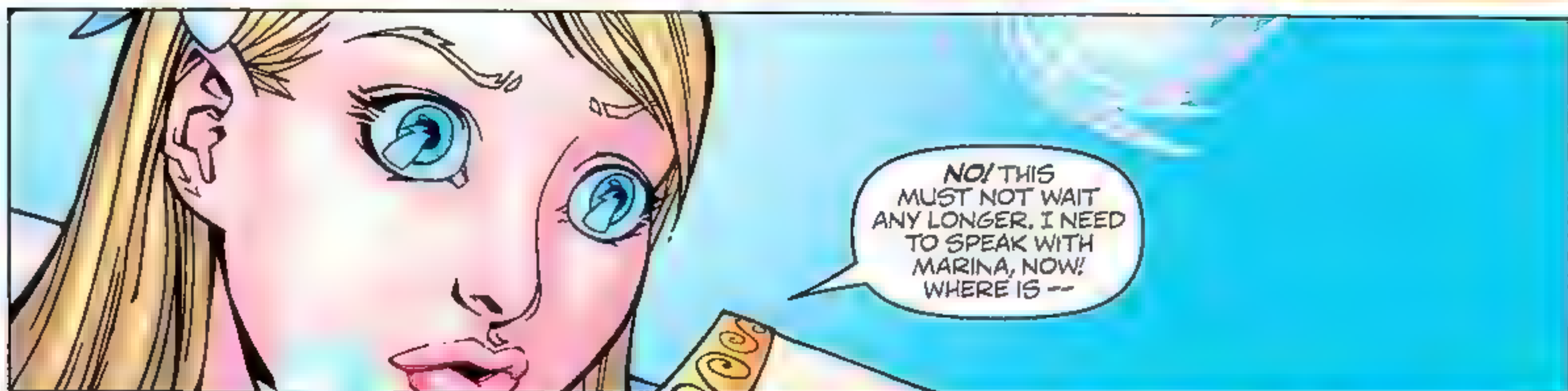
LULL RRRR LULL RRRR LULL





WE CANNOT BE WASTING OUR TIME LIKE THIS. I NEED TO SPEAK WITH MARINA IMMEDIATELY. IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

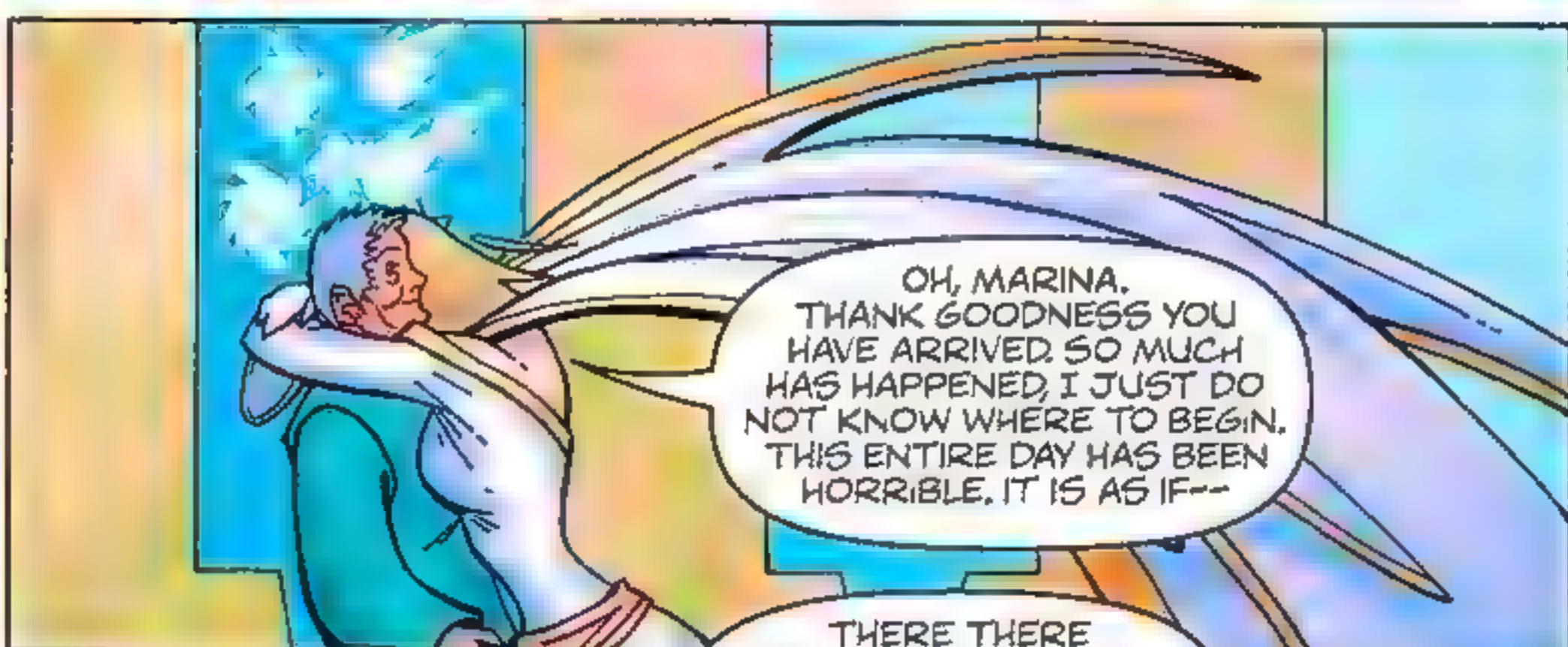
WE'VE ALREADY REQUESTED HER PRESENCE. SHE SHOULD BE ARRIVING SHORTLY.



NO! THIS MUST NOT WAIT ANY LONGER. I NEED TO SPEAK WITH MARINA, NOW! WHERE IS --



I AM HERE MY DEAR.

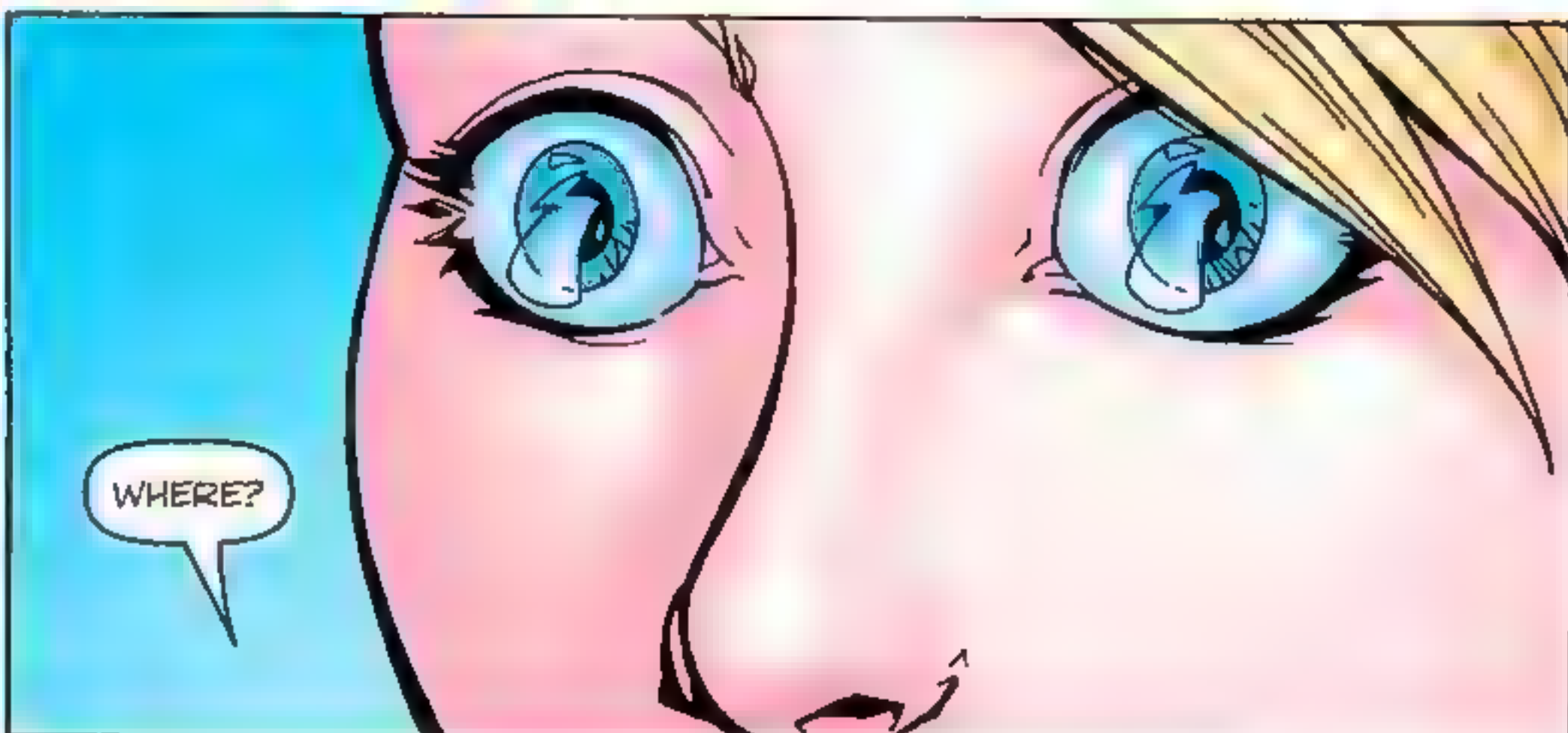


OH, MARINA. THANK GOODNESS YOU HAVE ARRIVED. SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED, I JUST DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. THIS ENTIRE DAY HAS BEEN HORRIBLE. IT IS AS IF--

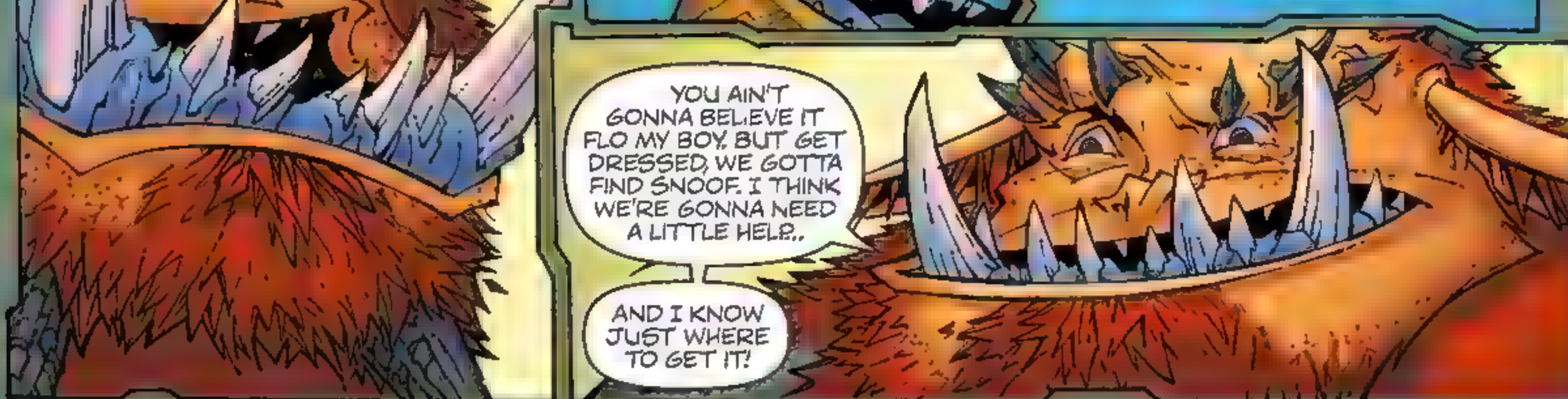
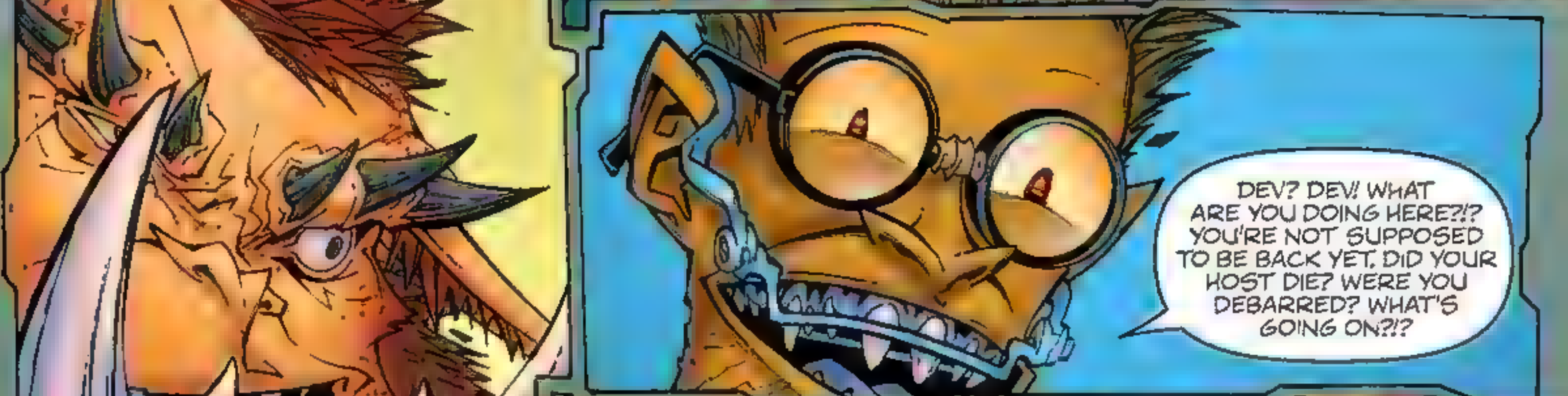
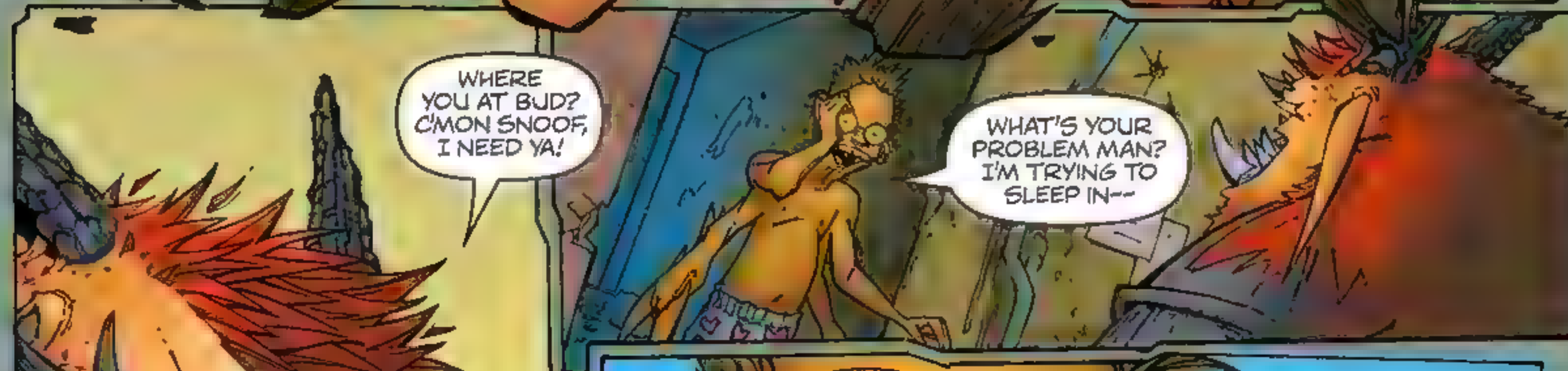
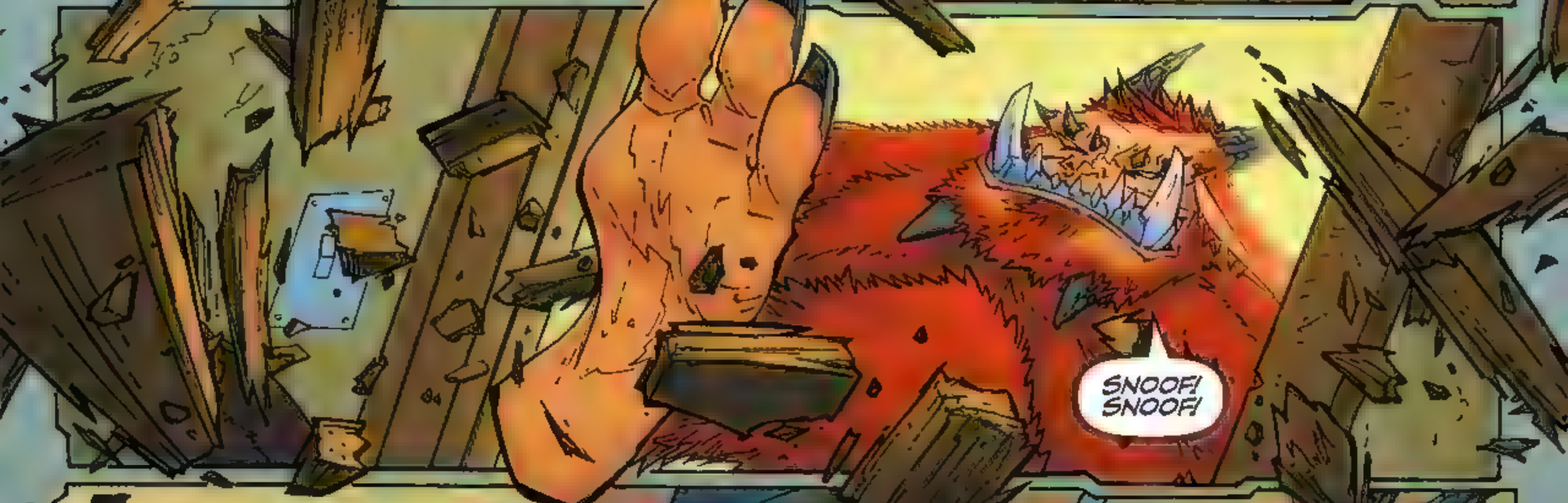
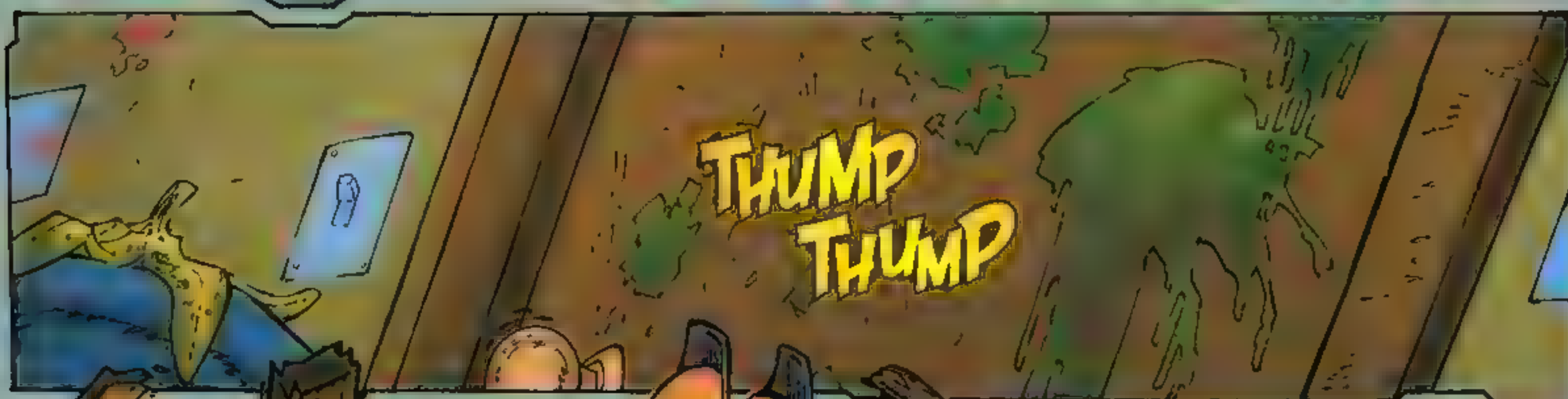
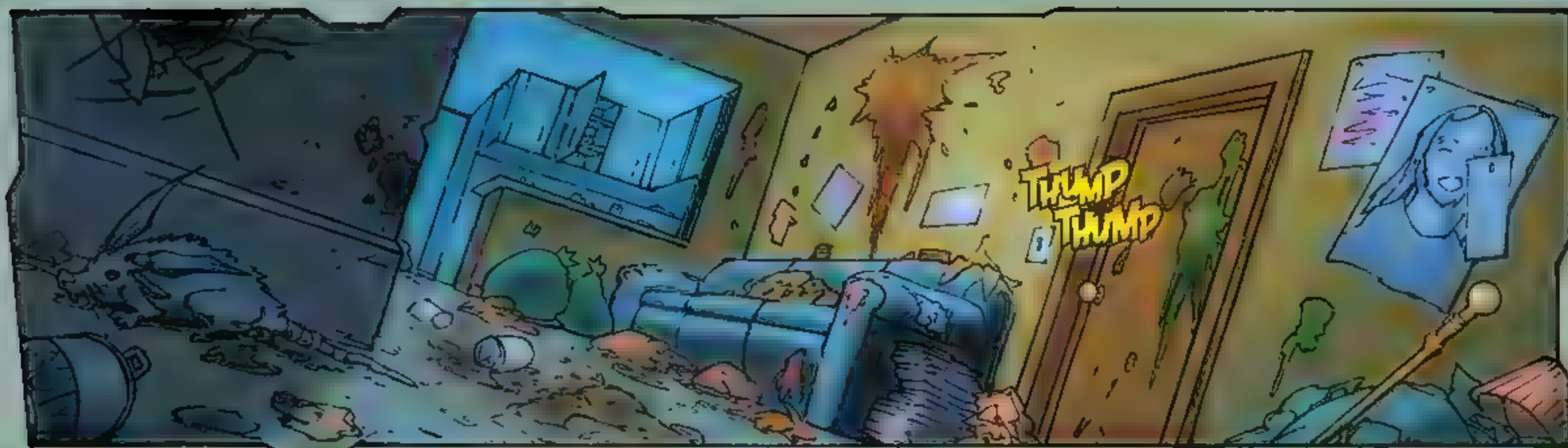


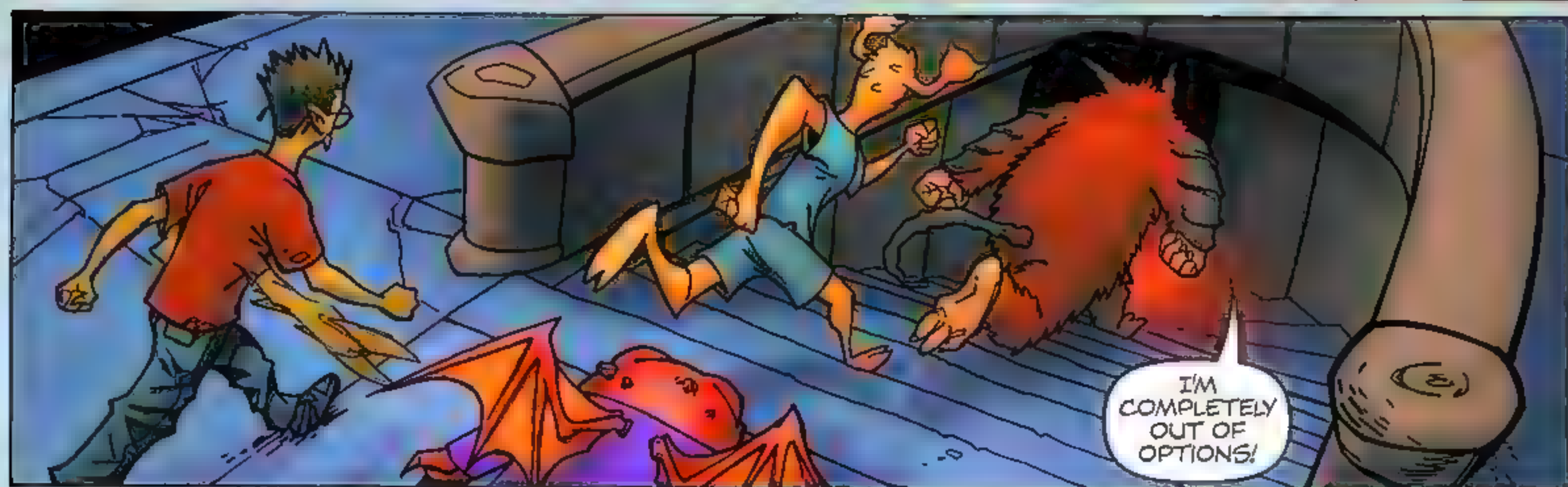
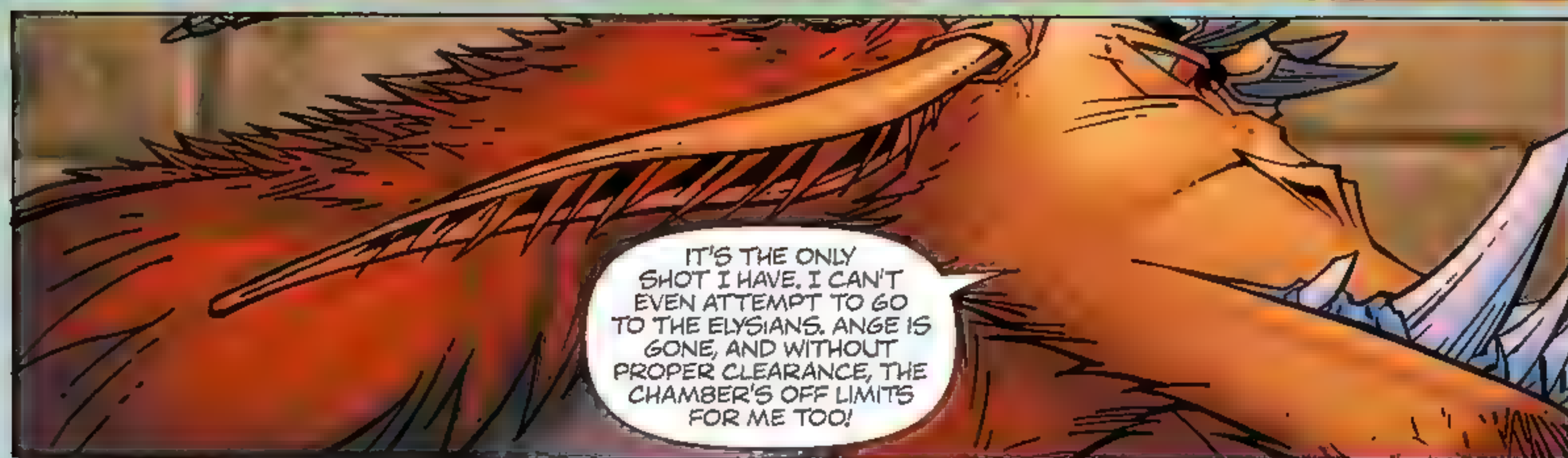
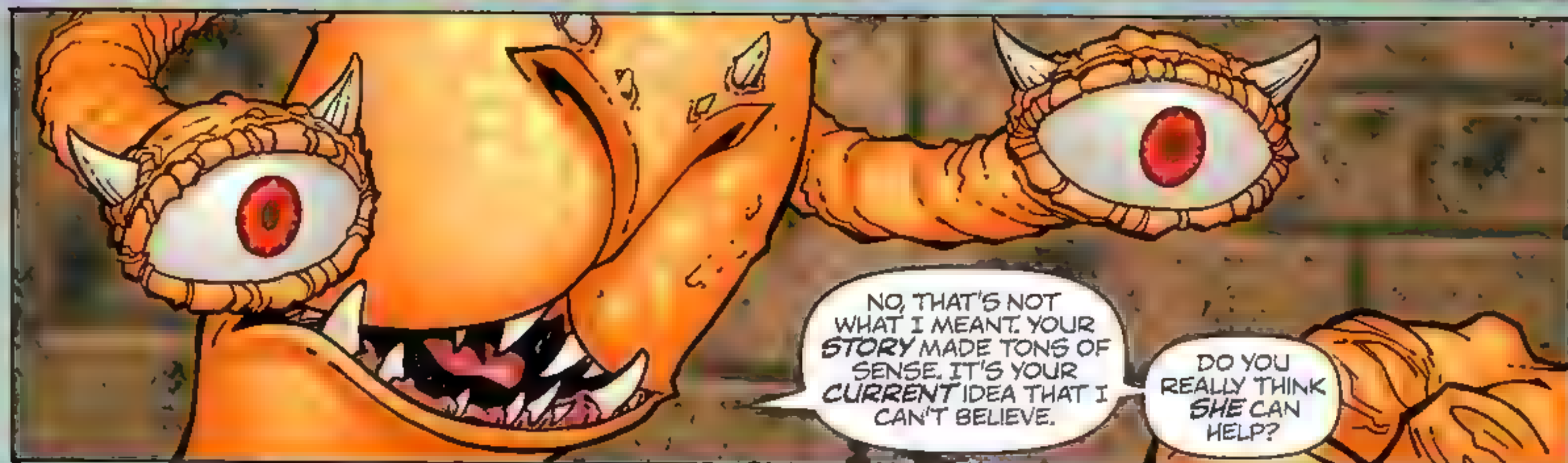
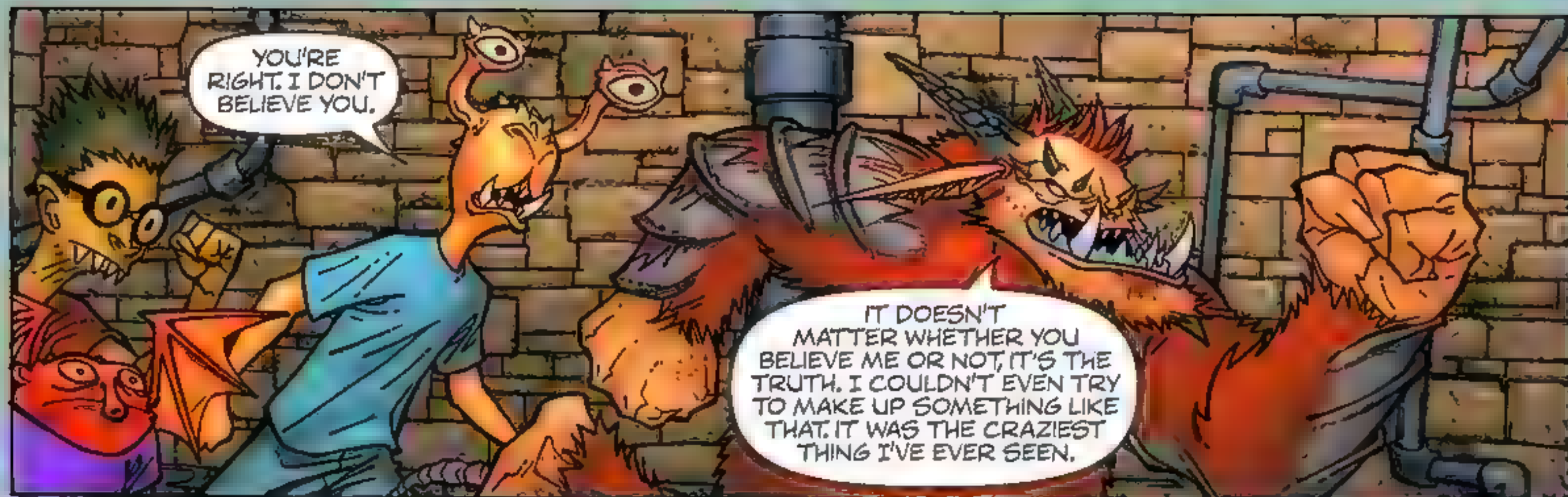
THERE THERE DEAR. IF YOU WILL CALM DOWN, WE CAN WORK THROUGH THIS TOGETHER. I WANT YOU TO TELL ME EVERYTHING. BUT FIRST, YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME.

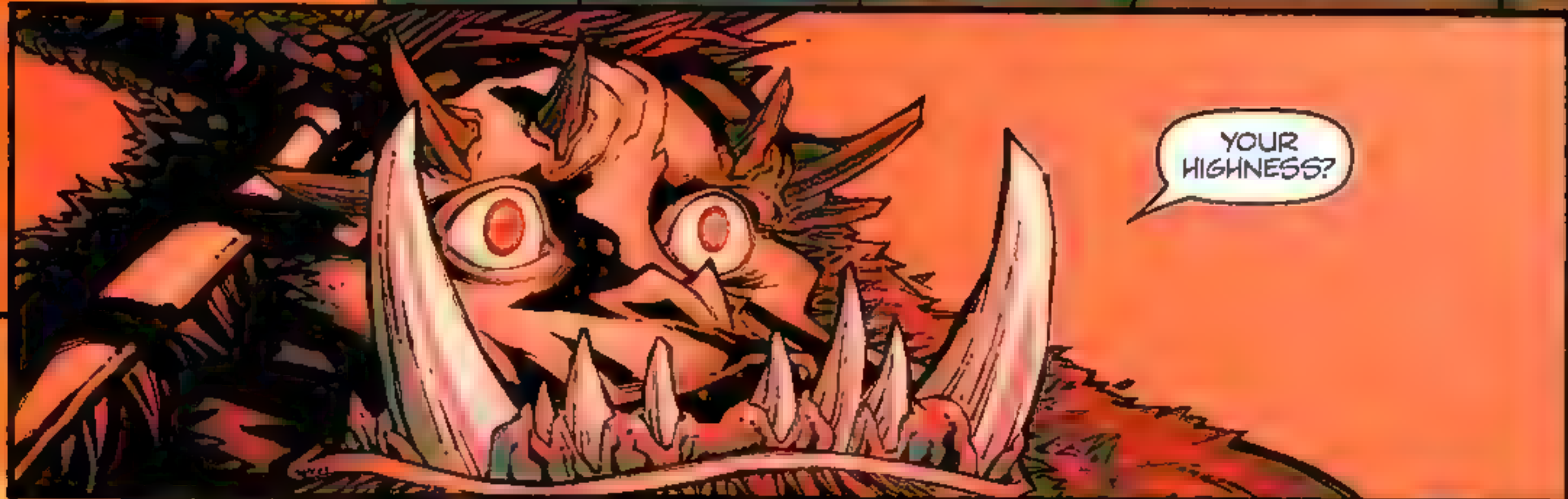
THIS IS MUCH BIGGER THAN YOU THINK DEAR. AND **EVERYTHING** WILL BE EXPLAINED WHEN WE GET THERE.



WHERE?







TO BE CONTINUED.



VOL. 1

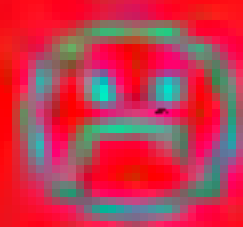
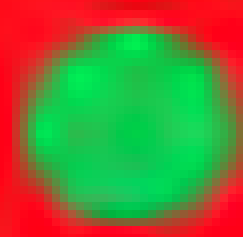
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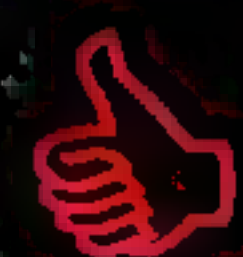
SHRUGGED



MICHAEL
2006
GORDON
SOTELLO



SHRUGGED



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Josh Reed

VOLUME ONE ISSUE **SIX** OF EIGHT

Written by: **Michael Turner** *and* **Frank Mastromauro**

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

OUR LADY OF HOPE CHURCH.

FORGIVE ME
FATHER FOR I
HAVE SINNED.

IT HAS BEEN
FOUR MONTHS
SINCE MY LAST
CONFESSION.

IN THAT
TIME, I'VE OFTEN BEEN
SELFISH, DISRESPECTFUL,
CONDESCENDING, AND
HAVE TAKEN THE LORD'S
NAME IN VAIN MORE
TIMES THAN I CAN
REMEMBER.

I TRY TO LEAD
A DECENT LIFE,
BUT SOMETIMES I
FEEL THAT IT'S EASIER
TO DO WHAT'S WRONG,
INSTEAD OF TRYING
TO DO WHAT'S
RIGHT.

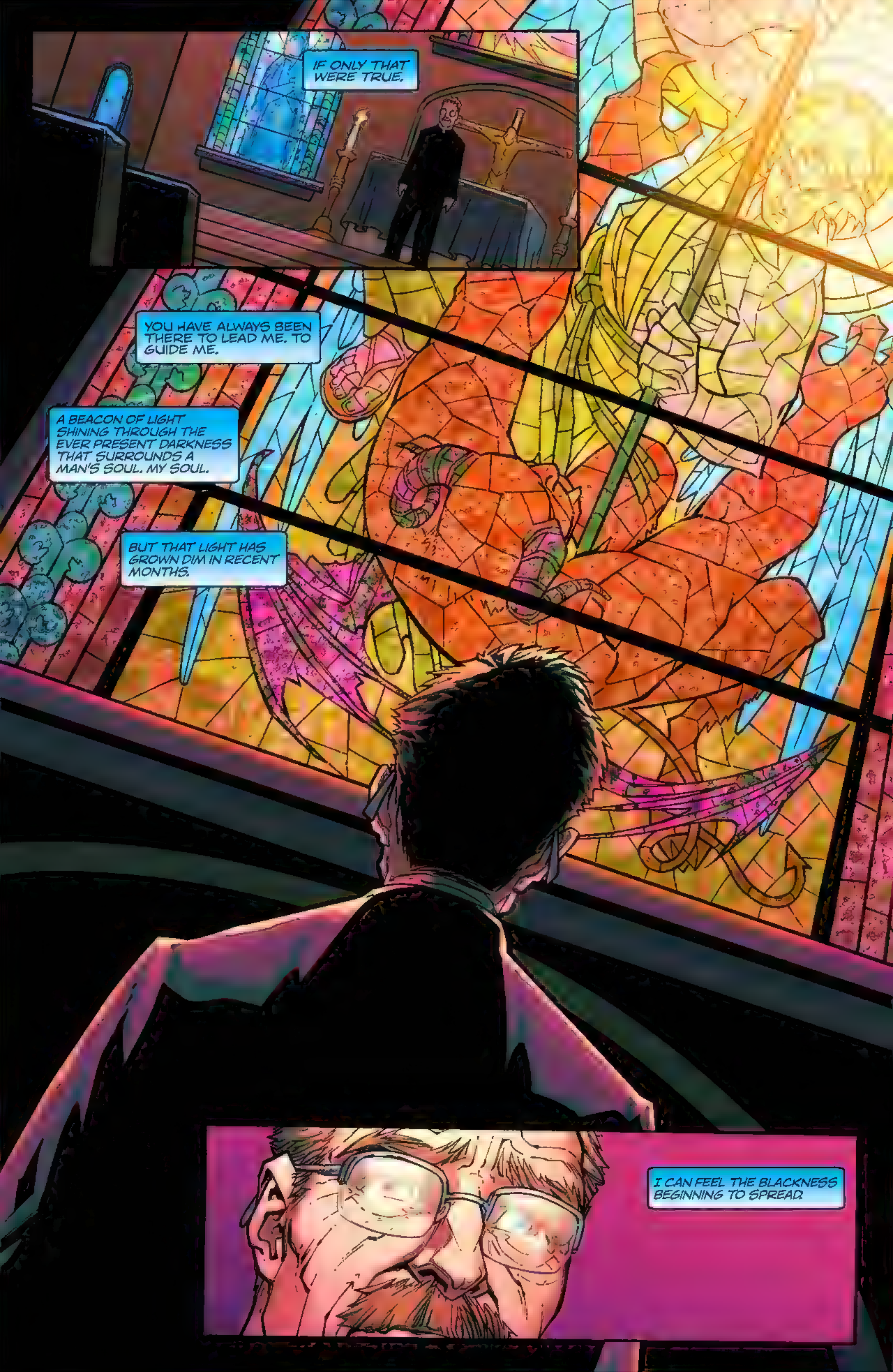
DOES THAT
MAKE ME A
BAD PERSON,
FATHER?

NOT AT ALL, MY
SON. YOU'VE JUST
TEMPORARILY STRAYED
FROM THE PATH. BUT AS
LONG AS YOU BELIEVE
AND PUT YOUR FAITH IN
THE LORD...

ALL WILL BE
FORGIVEN.

TAKE GOOD
CARE.

AH, IF ONLY...

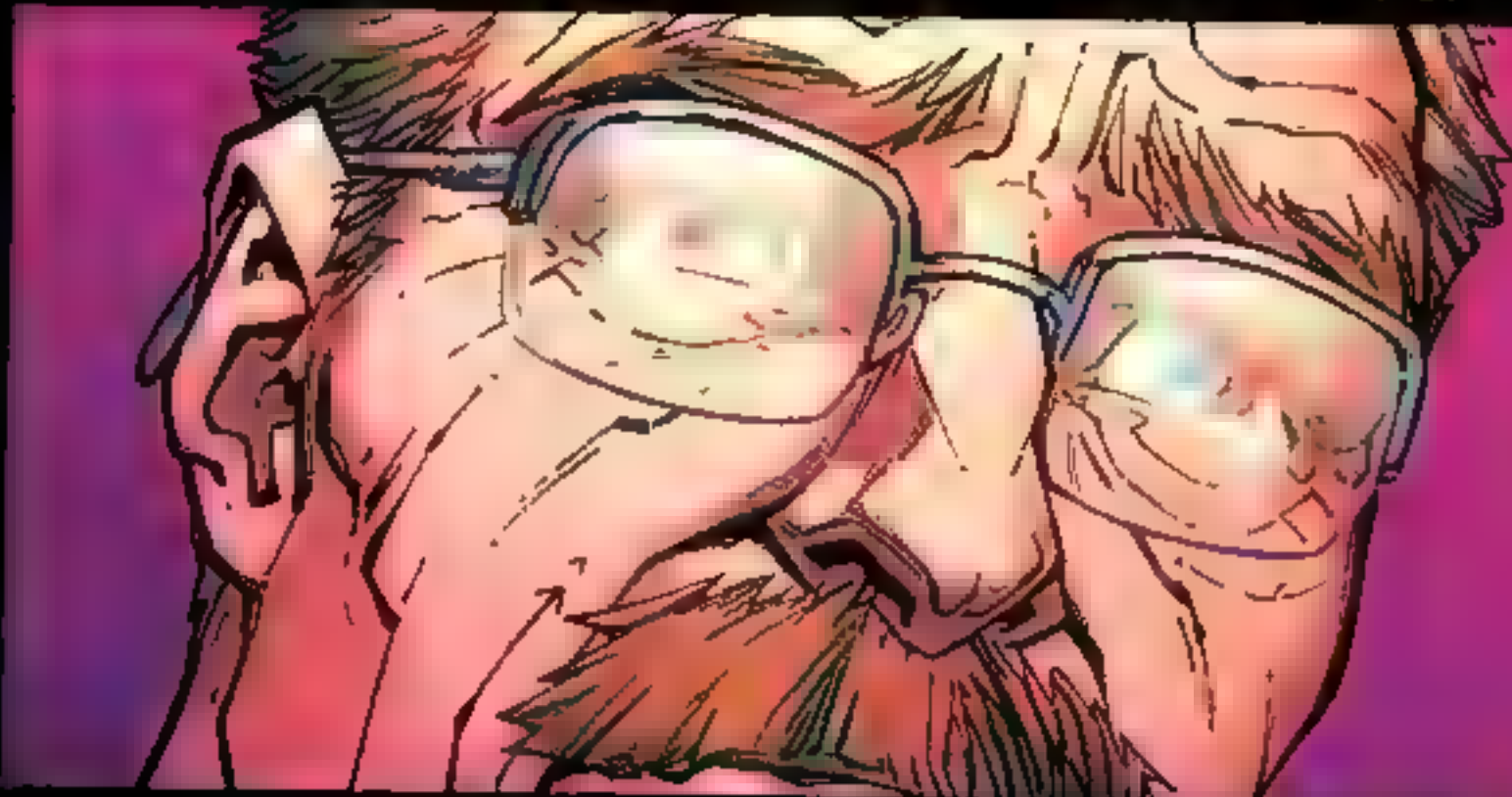


IF ONLY THAT
WERE TRUE,

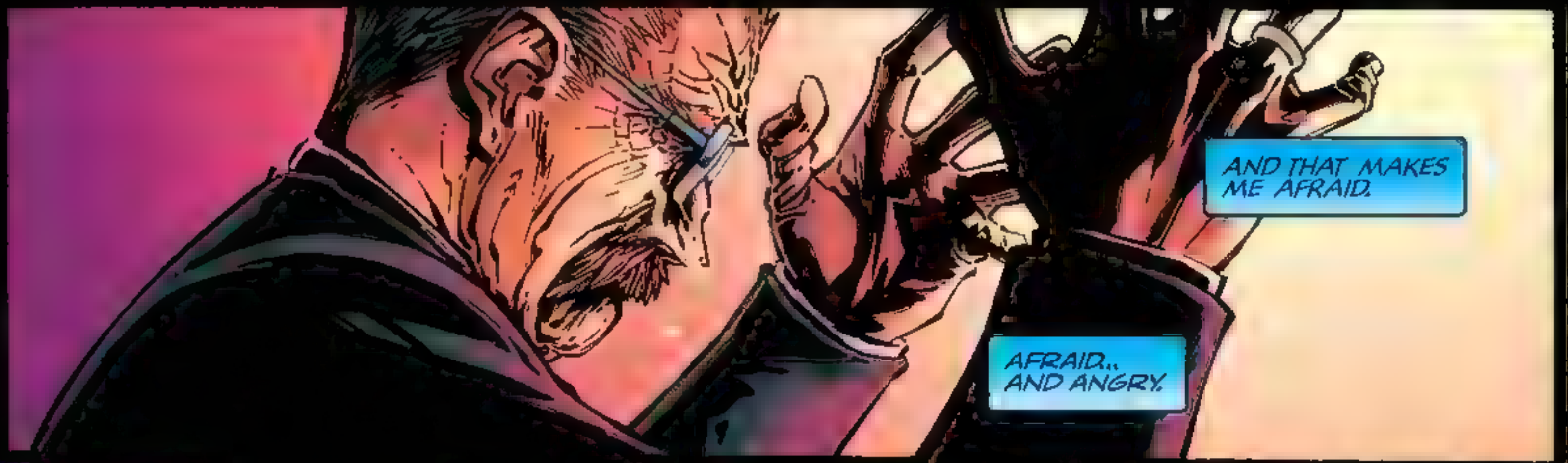
YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
THERE TO LEAD ME. TO
GUIDE ME.

A BEACON OF LIGHT
SHINING THROUGH THE
EVER PRESENT DARKNESS
THAT SURROUNDS A
MAN'S SOUL. MY SOUL.

BUT THAT LIGHT HAS
GROWN DIM IN RECENT
MONTHS.

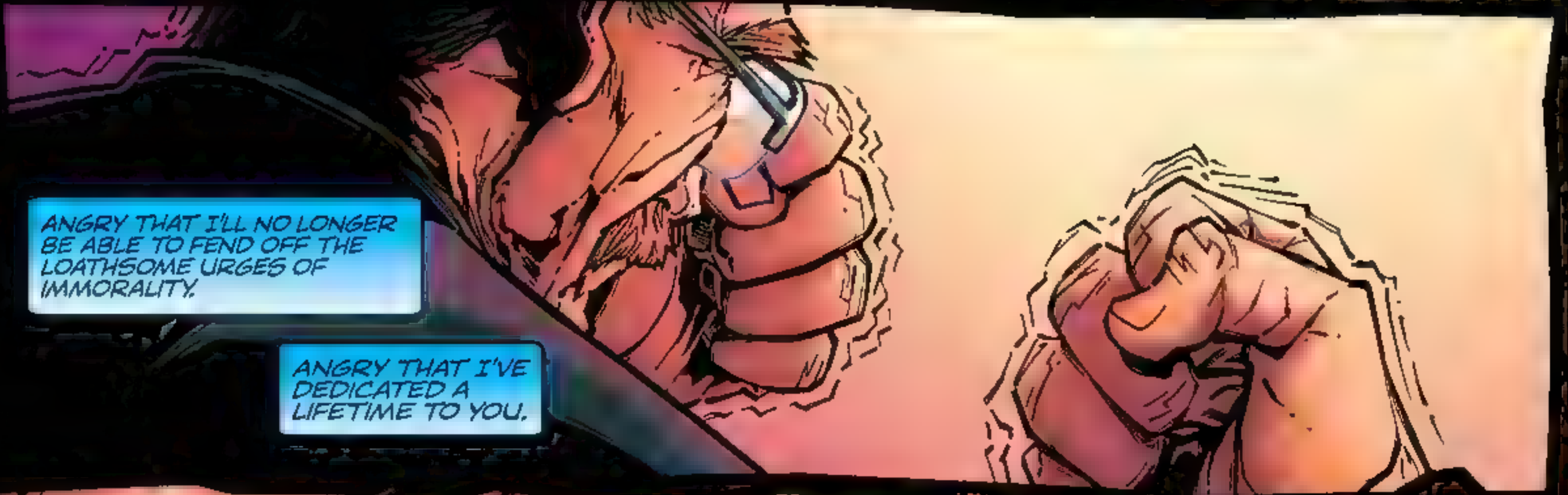


I CAN FEEL THE BLACKNESS
BEGINNING TO SPREAD.



AND THAT MAKES ME AFRAID.

AFRAID... AND ANGRY.

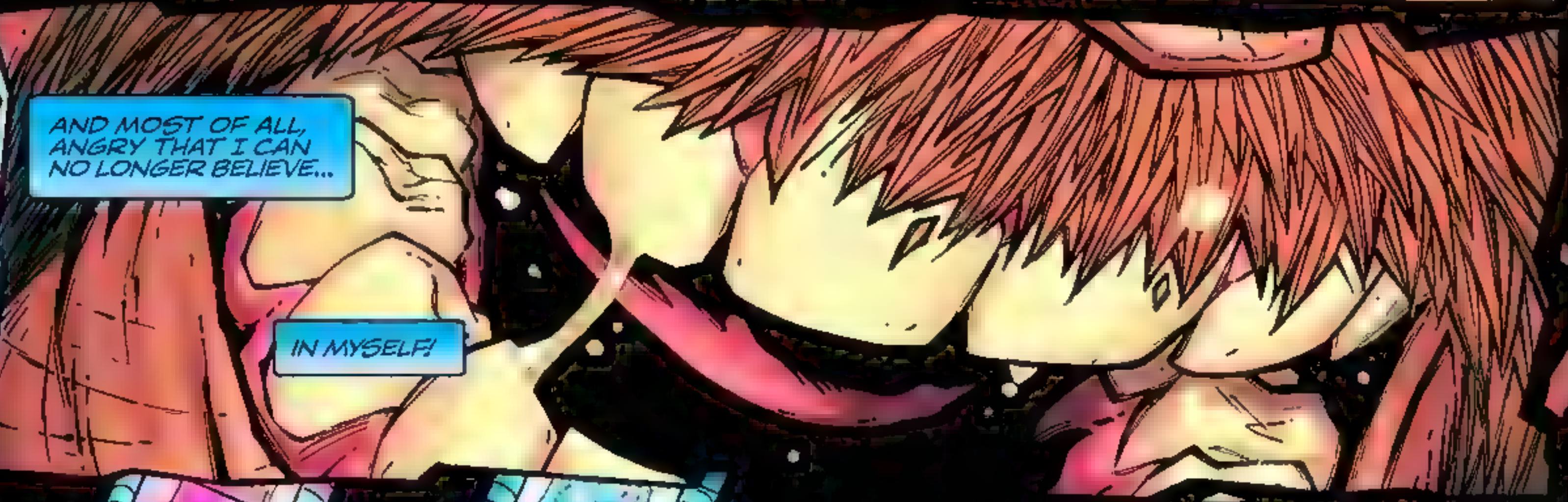


ANGRY THAT I'LL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO FEND OFF THE LOATHSOME URGES OF IMMORALITY.

ANGRY THAT I'VE DEDICATED A LIFETIME TO YOU.



ANGRY THAT I'VE PUT MY BELIEF IN A FALLACY.

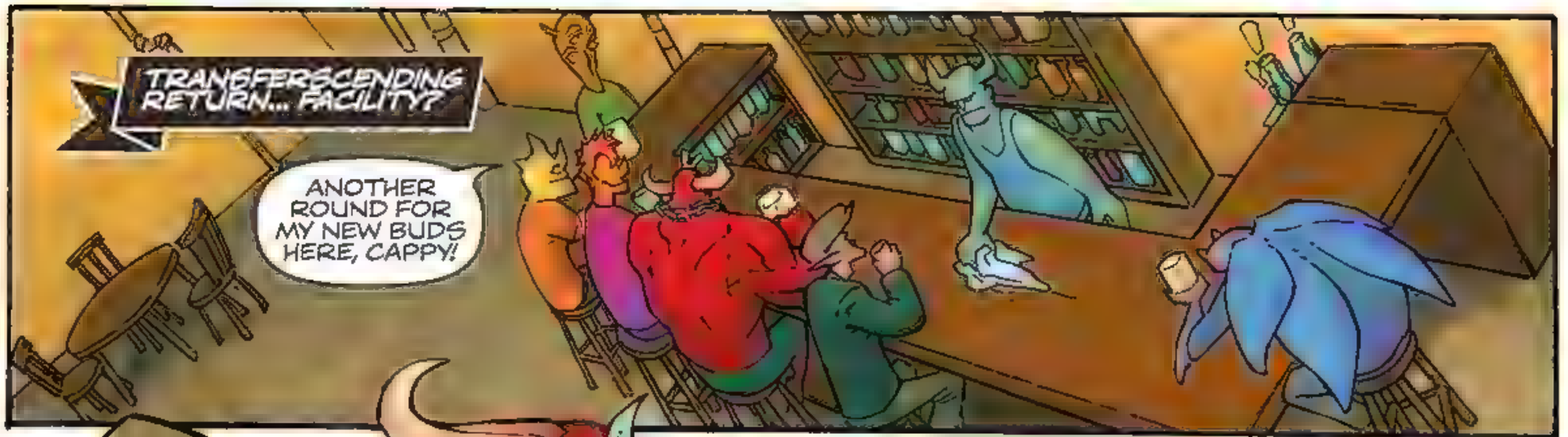


AND MOST OF ALL, ANGRY THAT I CAN NO LONGER BELIEVE...

IN MYSELF!



AND THAT IS THE BIGGEST SIN OF ALL.



TRANSFERSCENDING
RETURN... FACILITY?

ANOTHER
ROUND FOR
MY NEW BUDS
HERE, CAPPY!

YOU FELLAS
SURE CAN PUT
'EM AWAY.

GLAD TO
BE HOME?



S'ALL GOOD
MY FRIEND. JUST
ENJOY'N THESE
SILKY SMOOTH
SUDS.

HMPH,
THIS MUG'S
NOT FROSTY. I
SAID FROSTY
DAMN IT!

HE HE, I
FEEL SUPER!

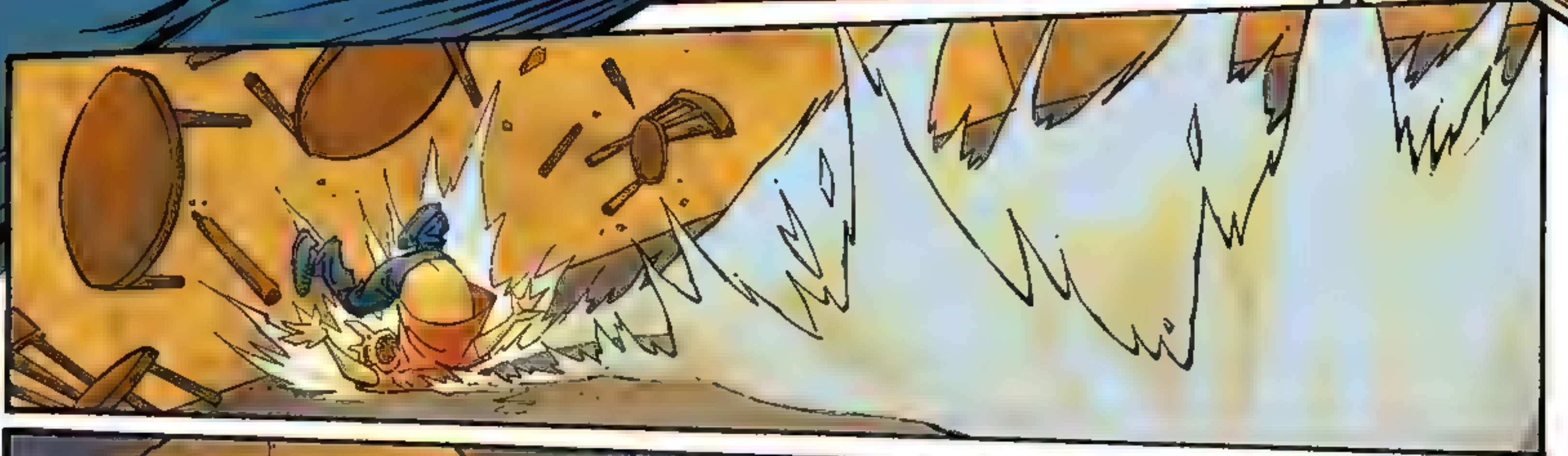
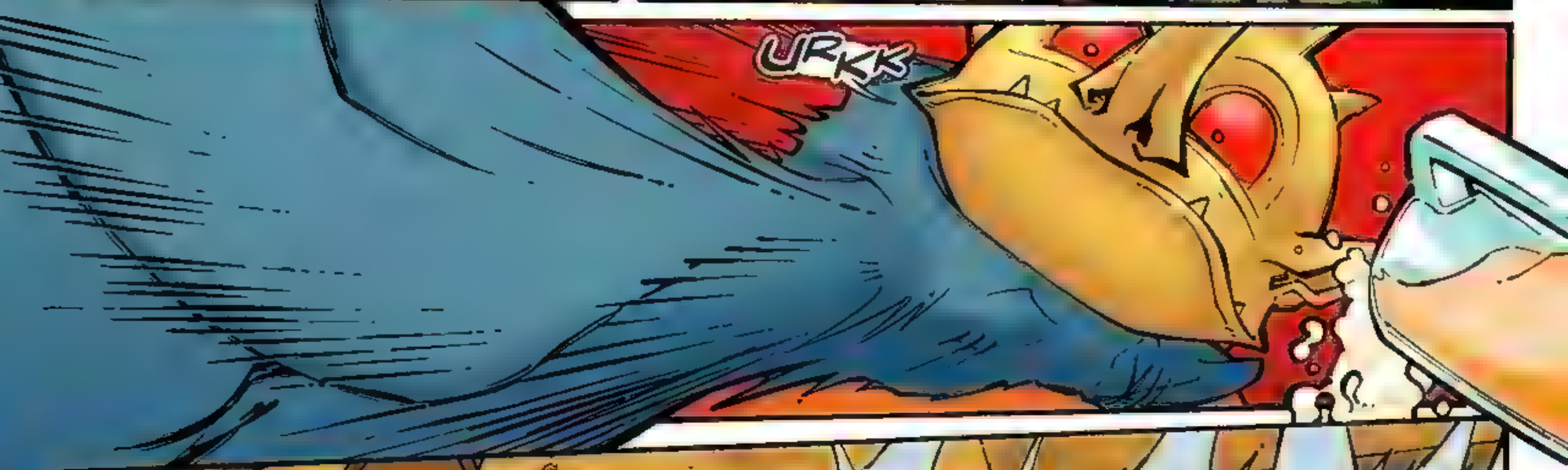
MY DRINK IS
DY-NO-MITE!!
THIS IS NON-
ALCOHOLIC RIGHT?
BOTTOMS UP!!



ALRIGHT!!

WE'LL
DRINK TO
THAT!!





SOMEWHERE ON PERSPECTA.

UINHHH...

WHAT
HAPPENED?

WHERE
ARE WE?



HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW? I WAS OUT OF IT AS LONG AS YOU WERE.



YEAH WELL, LAST THING I REMEMBER IS RUNNING FROM THOSE FLYING THINGS. THEY WERE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OTHER CREATURES THOUGH. THEY SEEMED MORE....

SENSITIVE.

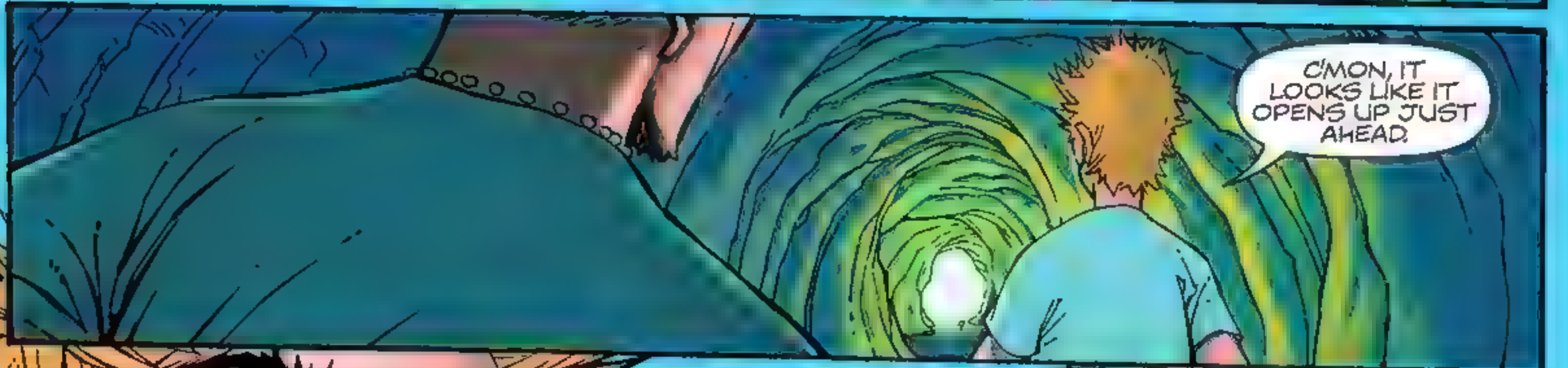


SENSITIVE?!? YOU REALLY ARE NUTS, LANGSTROM.

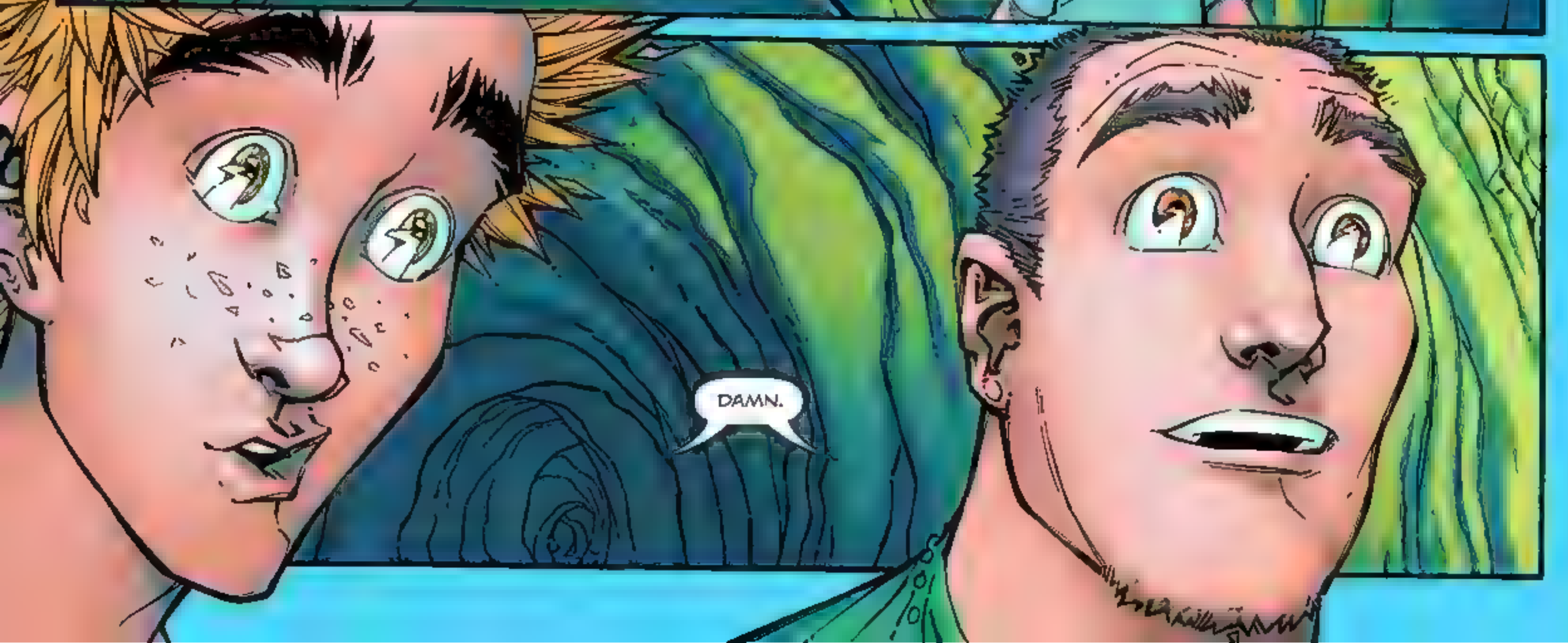


I SAY WE GET MOVING, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY WERE, WE SHOULD GET OUTTA HERE.

FOR ONCE, YOU'RE ACTUALLY MAKING SOME SENSE.

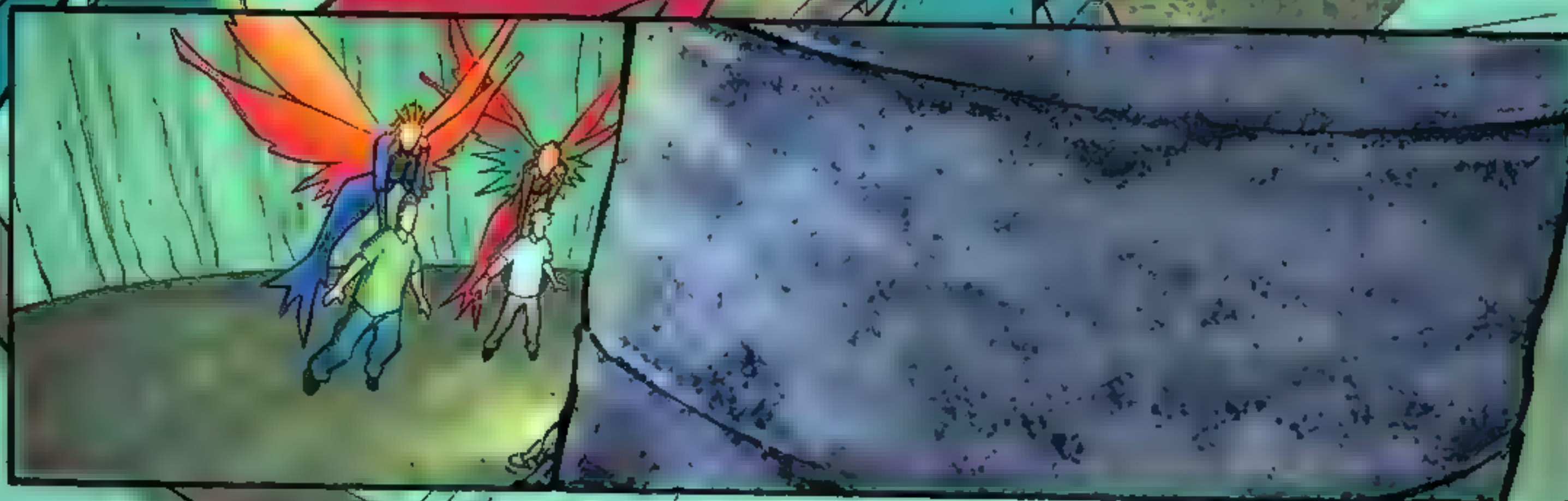
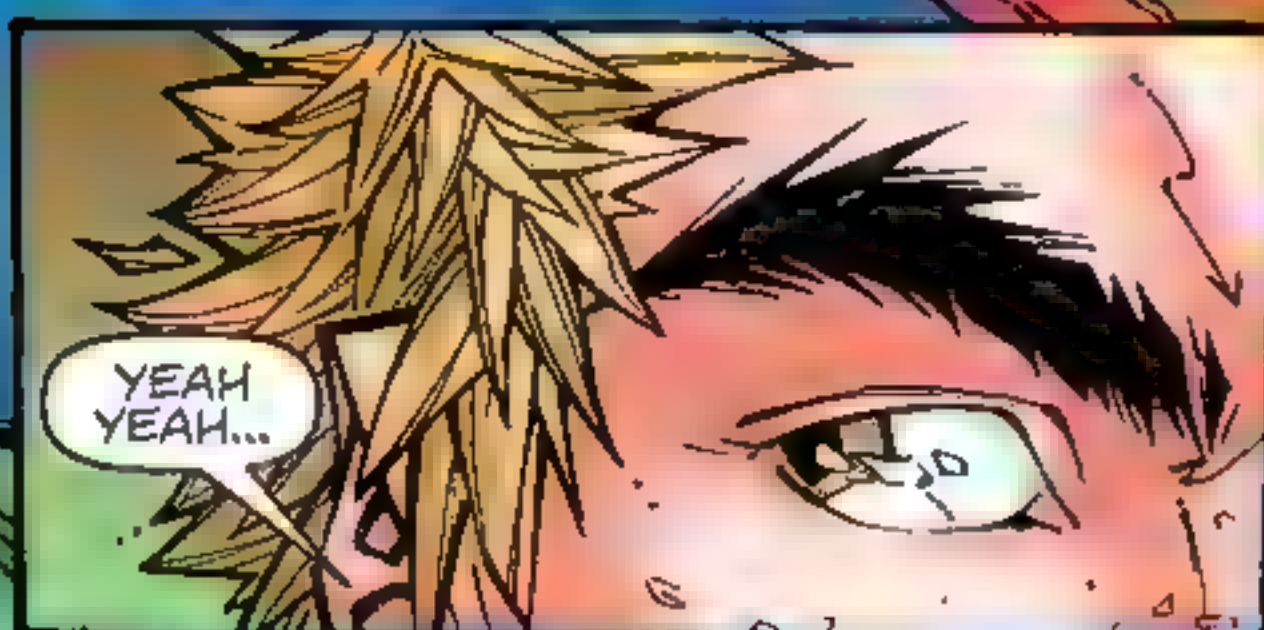
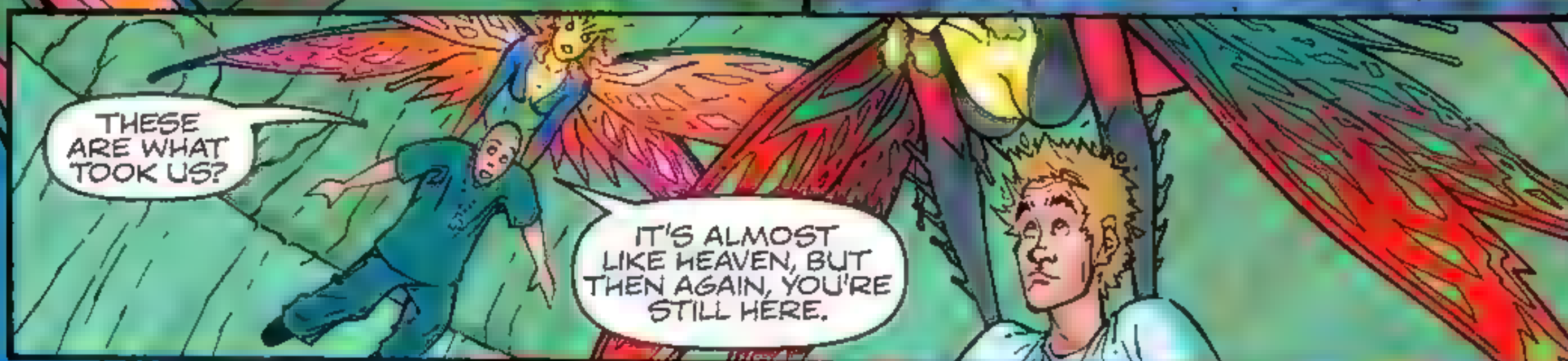
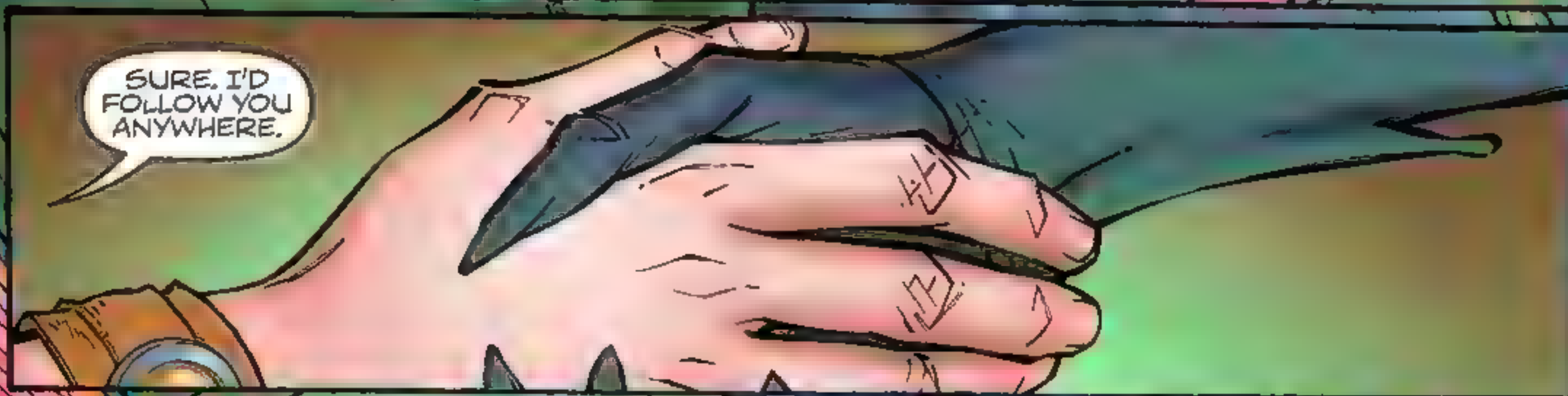
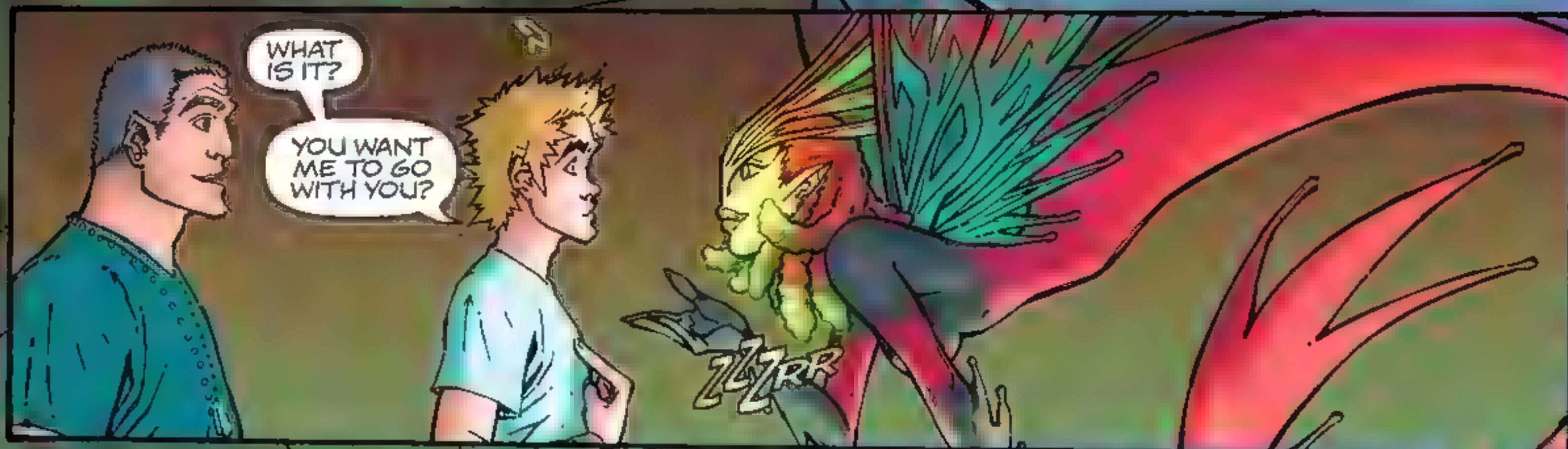


C'MON, IT LOOKS LIKE IT OPENS UP JUST AHEAD.



DAMN.







OH MY
GOD!!

CARRIE!?

HI YA,
THEO, GUESS
WE NEED TO
TALK, HUH?

ELYSIA.

NOBLE'S ASSEMBLY QUARTERS.

IS THAT?

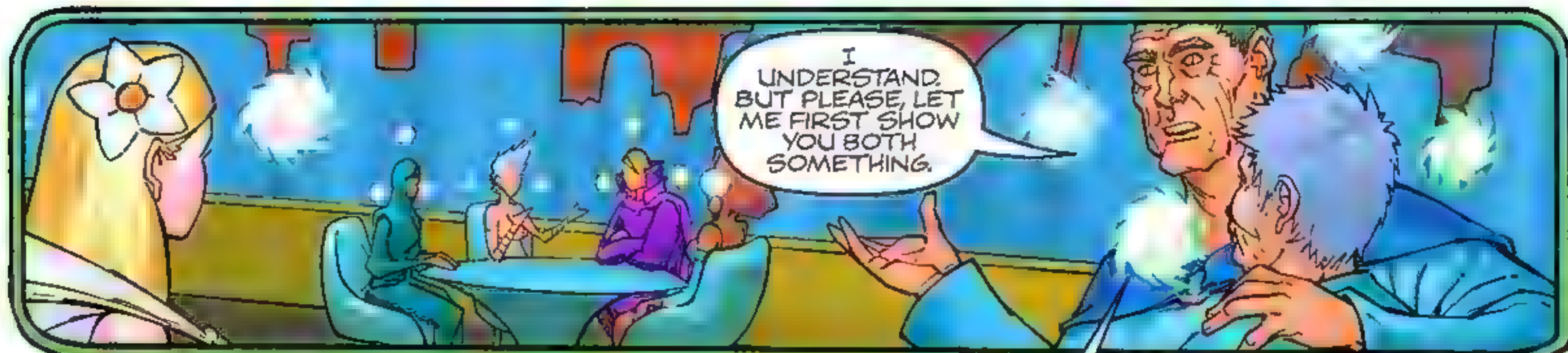
YES DEAR,
IT'S NOBLE
BOHAVEN, THE
ELYSIAN HEAD
SUPERIOR.

HELLO NOBLE,
WE HOPE THIS
DAY FINDS YOU WELL
AMID ITS DAILY WARES.
YOUNG ANGE HERE HAS
ACCOMPANIED ME IN HOPES
OF DISCUSSING A RATHER
IMPORTANT MATTER
WITH YOU.

GREETINGS
MARINA. HELLO
ANGE. I'M ALWAYS
AVAILABLE TO SPEAK
WITH TWO OF MY
ESTEEMED
COLLEAGUES.

HOW
CAN I HELP
YOU?

WE BELIEVE
ANGE'S RETURN
HOME MAY BE IN
ERROR. SHE HAS SOME
QUITE TROUBLESOME
NEWS THAT YOU
SHOULD HEAR.



I UNDERSTAND, BUT PLEASE, LET ME FIRST SHOW YOU BOTH SOMETHING.

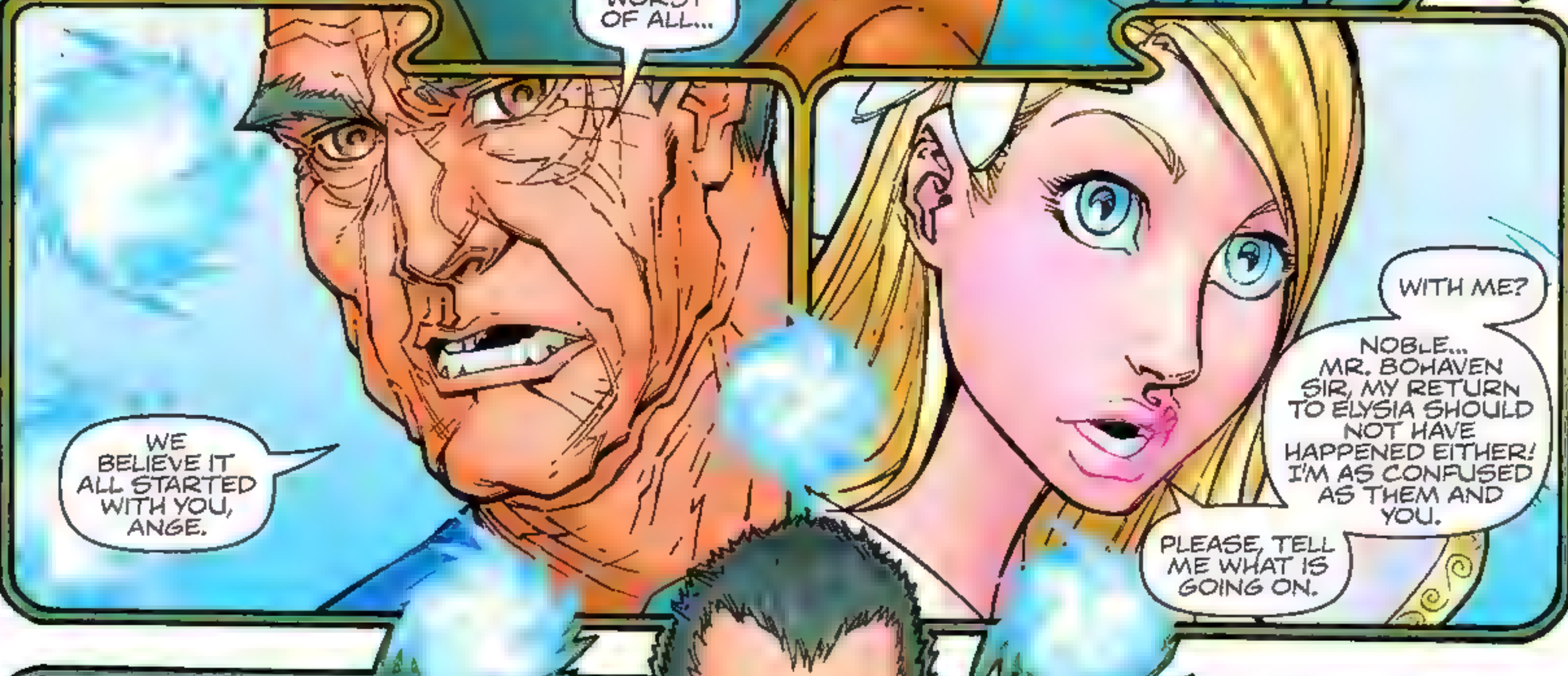


THESE OTHER FOUR ADOLESCENT ELYSIANS HAVE RECENTLY RETURNED HOME AS WELL. ALL ARRIVING WITHIN MOMENTS OF EACH OTHER.

WE'VE SPOKEN WITH EACH OF THEM, AND THEY ALL SAY THAT THEIR RETURN SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

WE VERIFIED WITH THE TRANSFERSCHEDULING THAT NONE WERE LISTED TO ARRIVE BACK ANYTIME WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL UPCOMING CYCLES.

AND NO MATTER WHAT WE TRY, WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO TRACK THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSTS BACK ON EARTH.



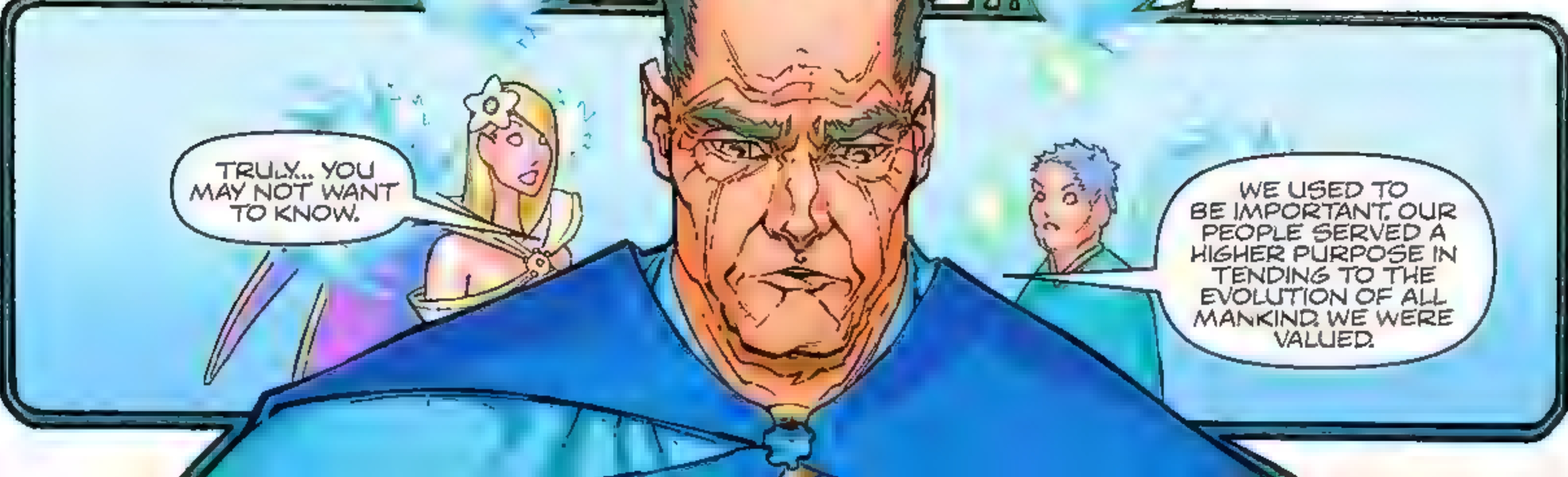
WORST OF ALL...

WE BELIEVE IT ALL STARTED WITH YOU, ANGE.

WITH ME?

NOBLE... MR. BOHAVEN SIR, MY RETURN TO ELYSIA SHOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED EITHER! I'M AS CONFUSED AS THEM AND YOU.

PLEASE, TELL ME WHAT IS GOING ON.



TRULY... YOU MAY NOT WANT TO KNOW.

WE USED TO BE IMPORTANT. OUR PEOPLE SERVED A HIGHER PURPOSE IN TENDING TO THE EVOLUTION OF ALL MANKIND. WE WERE VALUED.

AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT.

AS COUNTLESS TIME PASSED, WE CONTINUED TO SERVE IN THE BEST CAPACITY WE COULD. CONSTANTLY GUIDING AND ADVISING, PROVIDING WISDOM AND CLARITY TO A WORLD GROWING AT A SPEED IN WHICH HUMANS COULDN'T MAINTAIN. EVENTUALLY, OUR VOICES SLOWLY BEGAN TO GET DROWNED OUT.

OUR EFFORTS STARTED TO FALL ON DEAF EARS!

MAN WAS NO LONGER WILLING TO EXERT THE ENERGY, SPEND THE TIME, GO THE EXTRA MILE, DO WHAT WAS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE RIGHT AND PROPER CHOICE.

THEY WOULD OFTEN CHOOSE THE EASIER ROUTE, OR EVEN THE WRONG ONE, JUST TO TRY AND KEEP UP THE NEW WAY OF THEIR EVOLVING WORLD.

OUR INFLUENCE DECLINED... WHILE THE NEFARIANS INCREASED.

BY TRYING TO REMAIN A CONSTANT VOICE OF REASON, AND BEING SOMEWHAT PASSIVE TO THE CHANGE OF HUMAN EMOTIONS, OUR NEFARIAN COUNTERPARTS STARTED TO GAIN MORE POWER AND PERSUASION OVER THEIR HUMAN HOSTS.

THIS CAUSED THE SEPARATION IN PERSPECTA TO GROW IMMENSELY, CAUSING A RIFT AND STRONG DISSENSION BETWEEN OUR TWO RACES.

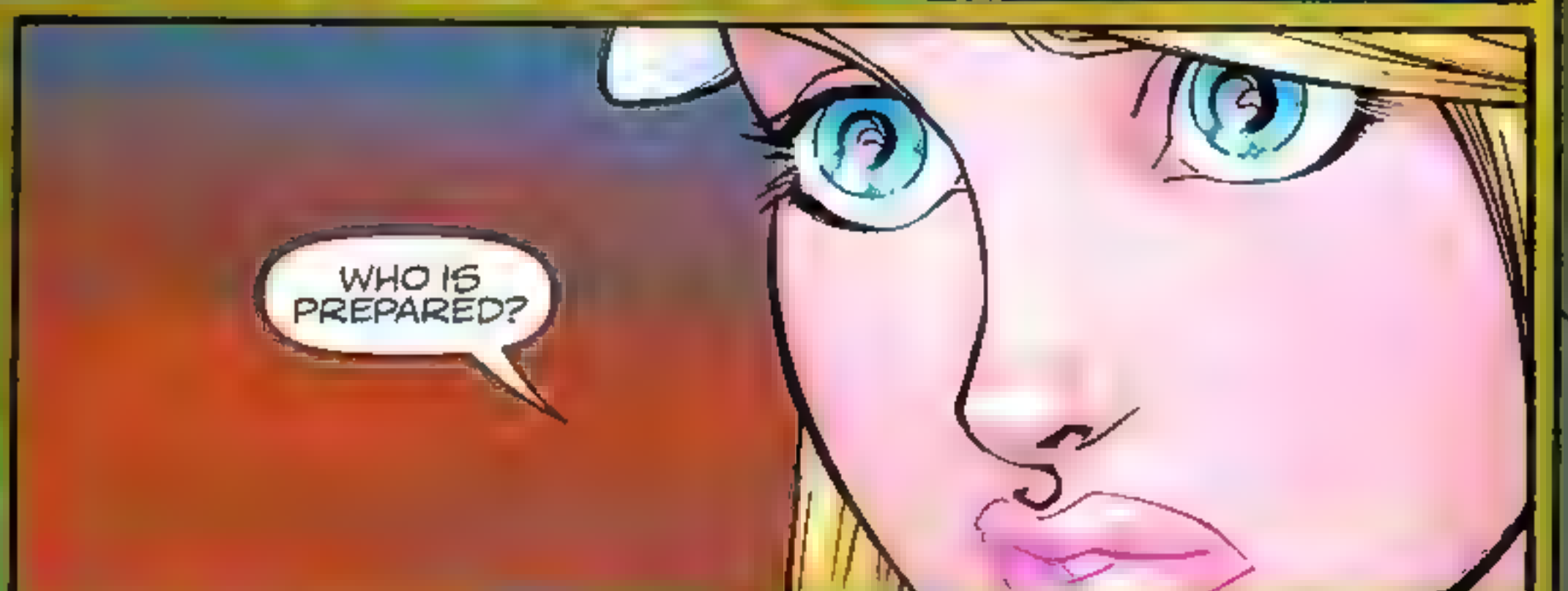
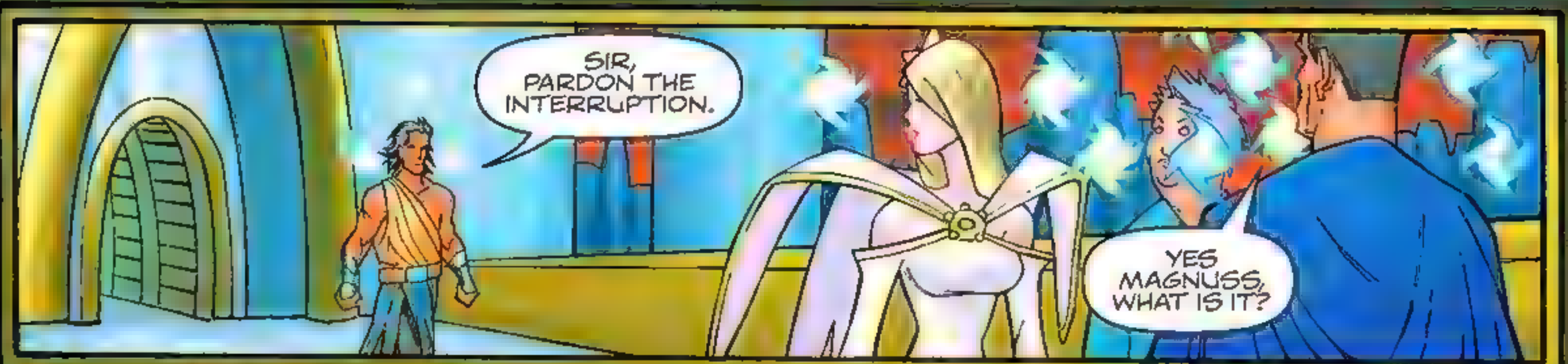
IN THE HUMAN YEAR OF 1971, THE ELS AND NEFS WENT ON STRIKE BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO WORK WITH ONE ANOTHER.

IT WAS FINALLY THEN THAT OUR PEOPLE REALIZED WE NEEDED A CHANGE. I BECAME LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND THE GRAND WALL WAS CONSTRUCTED TO PACIFY THE MASSES OF BOTH RACES.

IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST PROFOUND TIMES IN PERSPECTA'S HISTORY, MODIFYING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ELS, NEFS, AND THEIR HUMAN HOSTS, MORE THAN ANYONE COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER CHANGE. NO LONGER WILL THE ELYSIANS SIT IDLY BY AS THE NEFARIANS ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE LANDSCAPE OF HUMAN NATURE ONCE AGAIN. WE ARE GOING TO START TAKING BACK THAT LOST POWER.

IN FACT, WE ALREADY HAVE.



NEFARIO

EMBER'S CHAMBER.

GO ON,
YOU WERE
SAYING?

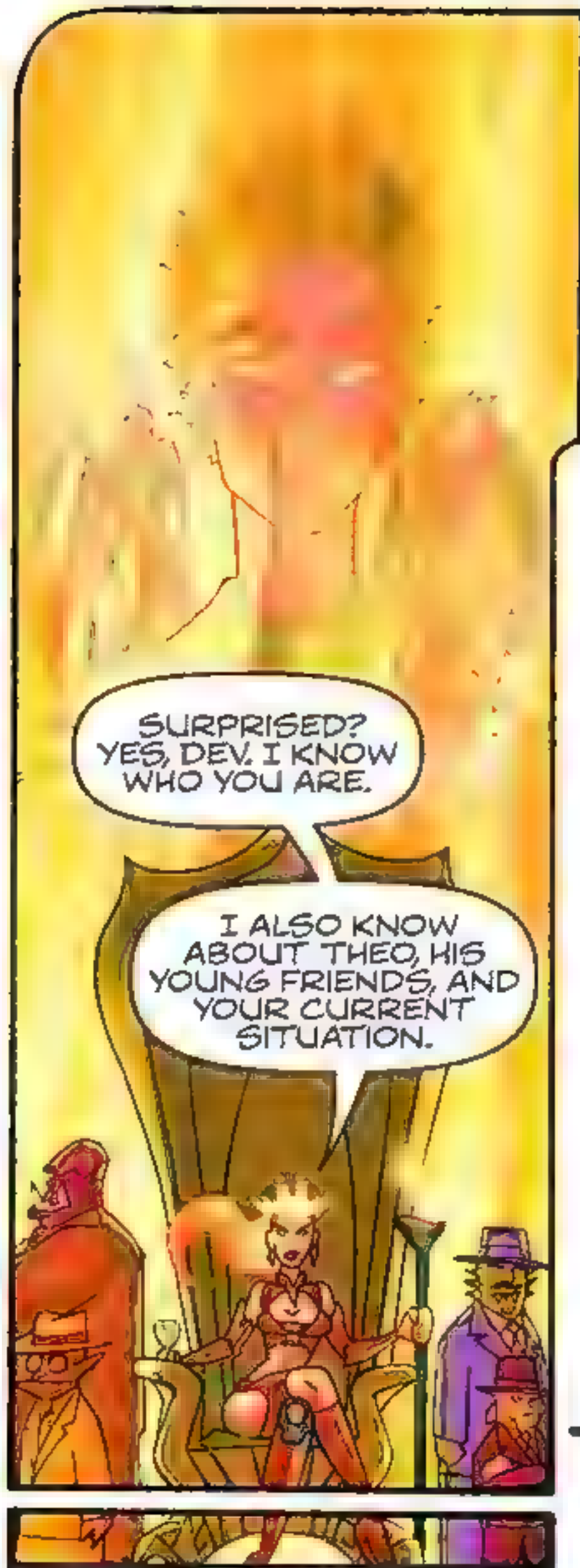
YEAH, WELL
IT'S SORTA
HARD TO EXPLAIN
YA SEE, MY HUMAN
HOST AND I WERE
KINDA... SPLIT.
SEPARATED.

AND NOT
JUST THE
NORMAL WAY EITHER.
I'M NOT QUITE
SURE WHAT'S
GOIN' ON BUT--

BUT YOU
COULD USE MY
HELP TO FIGURE
IT OUT, RIGHT?

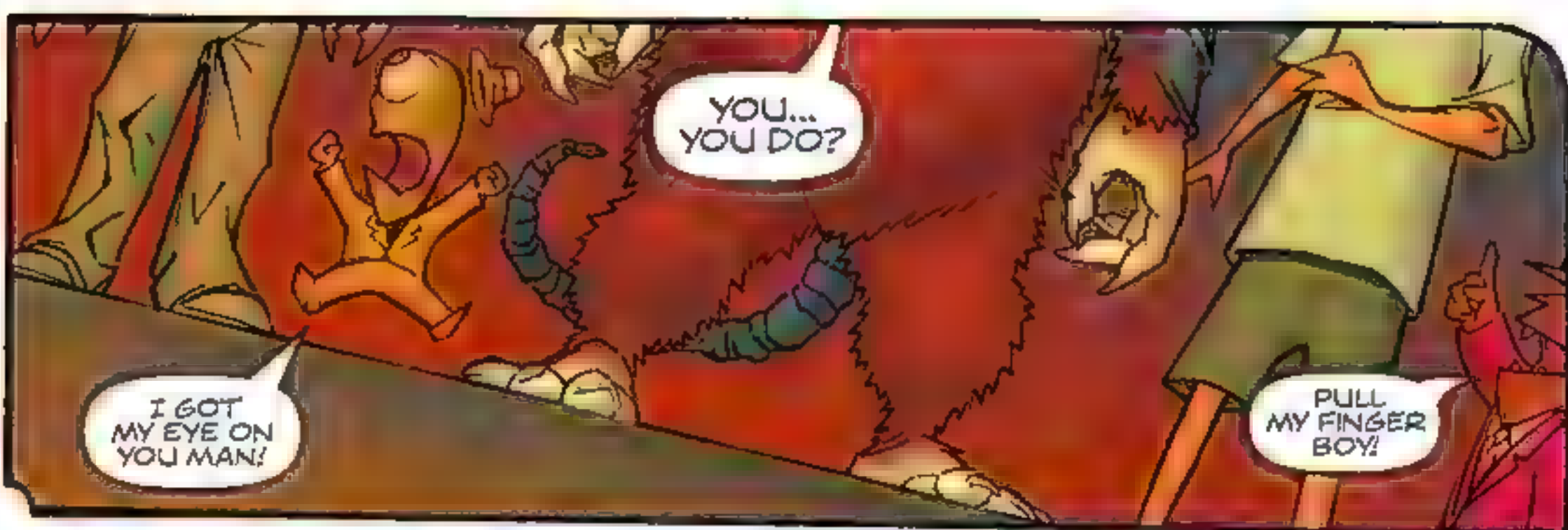
YES...
MAM... UM, YOUR
MAJESTY, YOUR
HIGHNESS.

THANKFULLY
DEVONSHIRE, YOU
ARE IN LUCK.



SURPRISED?
YES, DEV. I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE.

I ALSO KNOW
ABOUT THEO, HIS
YOUNG FRIENDS, AND
YOUR CURRENT
SITUATION.



I GOT
MY EYE ON
YOU MAN!

YOU...
YOU DO?

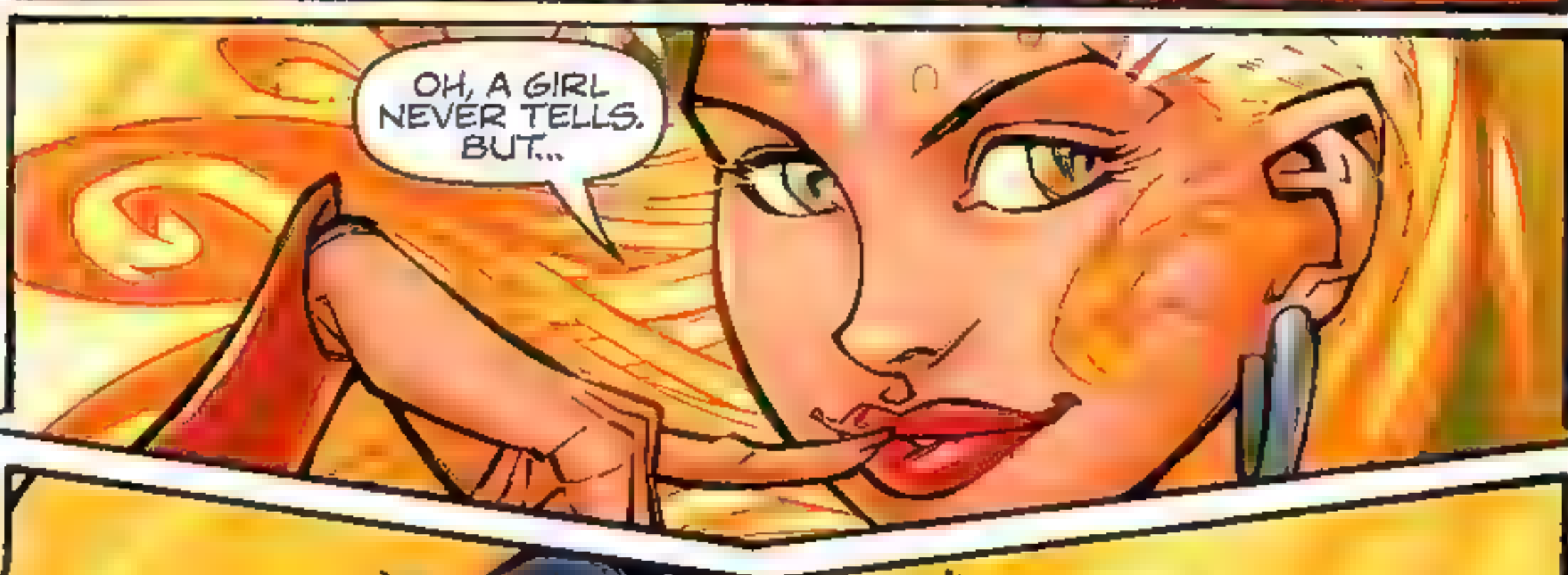
PULL
MY FINGER
BOY!



YES, AND
I'M ALREADY
TAKING CARE
OF IT.



YOU ARE?
HOW?!

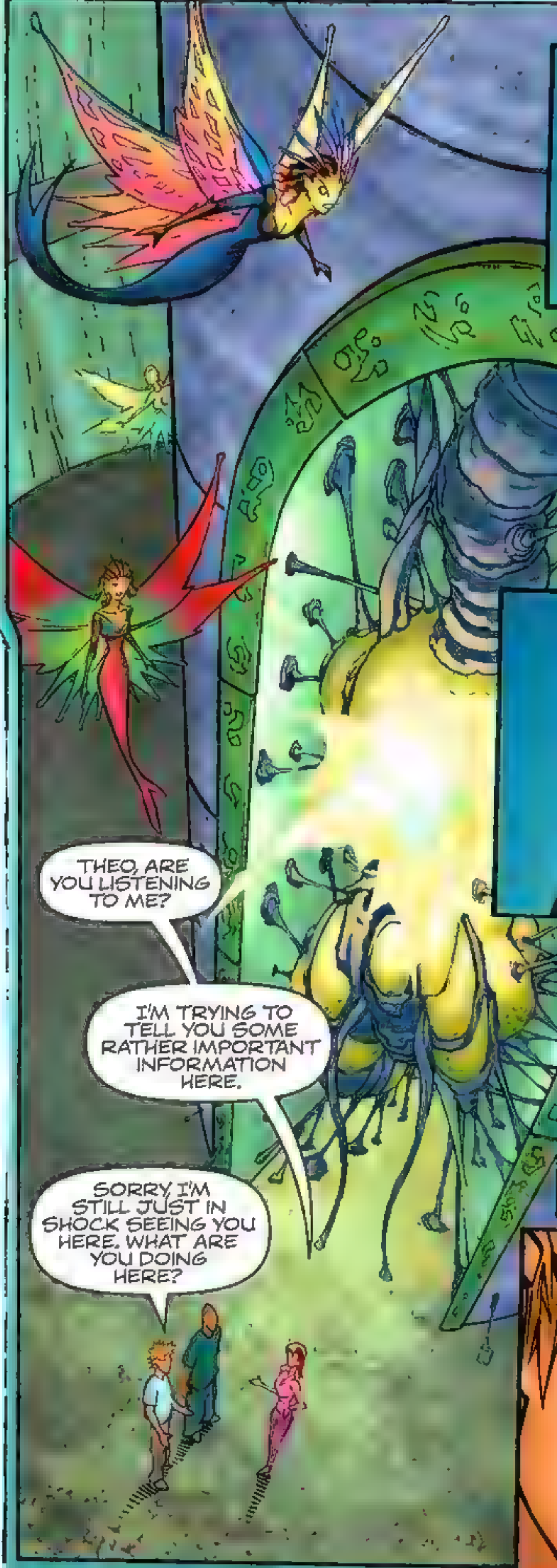


OH, A GIRL
NEVER TELLS.
BUT...



I'LL BE
MORE THAN
HAPPY TO LET
HIM EXPLAIN.

MAKE SURE
TO LISTEN
CLOSELY.



YA KNOW, I ASKED MYSELF THAT SAME QUESTION A MILLION TIMES...

UNTIL FINALLY ONE OF THESE LOVELY LADIES FOUND ME WANDERING AROUND AND BROUGHT ME HERE.

THANK YOU, KIRIALLA.

YOU KNOW ITS... HER NAME?

DO YOU KNOW ANY OF HER FRIENDS?

THEO, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU SOME RATHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION HERE.

SORRY I'M STILL JUST IN SHOCK SEEING YOU HERE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I DIDN'T AT FIRST. I WAS REALLY SCARED, AND HONESTLY.. WHEN I REALIZED THAT THIS WASN'T A DREAM, I THOUGHT I HAD DIED OR SOMETHING.

BUT WE'RE NOT DEAD AND THIS PLACE IS NOWHERE NEAR HOME. AND FOR SOME REASON...

YOU THEO, ARE THE ENTIRE REASON WE'RE HERE.

DON'T BELIEVE ME? LISTEN FOR YOURSELF.

HELLO THEO. YOU ARE ON
A WORLD CALLED PERSPECTA. I
AM ONE OF THE LIFE FORCES HERE,
ALONG WITH THE OTHER BEINGS AND
CREATURES THAT INHABIT OUR
PLANET.

WE EXIST
SOLELY FOR THE LIFELONG
DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR
KIND, HUMANS.

EVERYTHING ON
OUR WORLD PERTAINS TO A
FEELING, INSTINCT, REACTION, OR
ANY OF THE OTHER HUMAN
EMOTIONS THAT AFFECT
YOUR DAILY LIFE.

WE IN ESSENCE
SURVIVE BECAUSE OF YOU
AND YOUR SPECIES, AND IN
TURN, YOU EVOLVE AND
GROW BECAUSE
OF US.

HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN
AN IMBALANCE STARTING TO SPREAD
ACROSS OUR LAND.

THE TWO DOMINANT RACES
THAT LIVE HERE, THE ELYSIANS
AND THE NEFARIANS, ARE OPPOSING
ONE ANOTHER UNLIKE ANYTHING
THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED
BEFORE.

PERSPECTA'S INHABITANTS
HAVE ENDURED THEIR STRUGGLES
IN THE PAST, BUT THIS TIME, IT
APPEARS THE CONSEQUENCES
WILL BE MUCH MORE
SEVERE.

THAT'S
WHERE YOU
COME IN,
THEO.

ME?? I
DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
WHY ME?

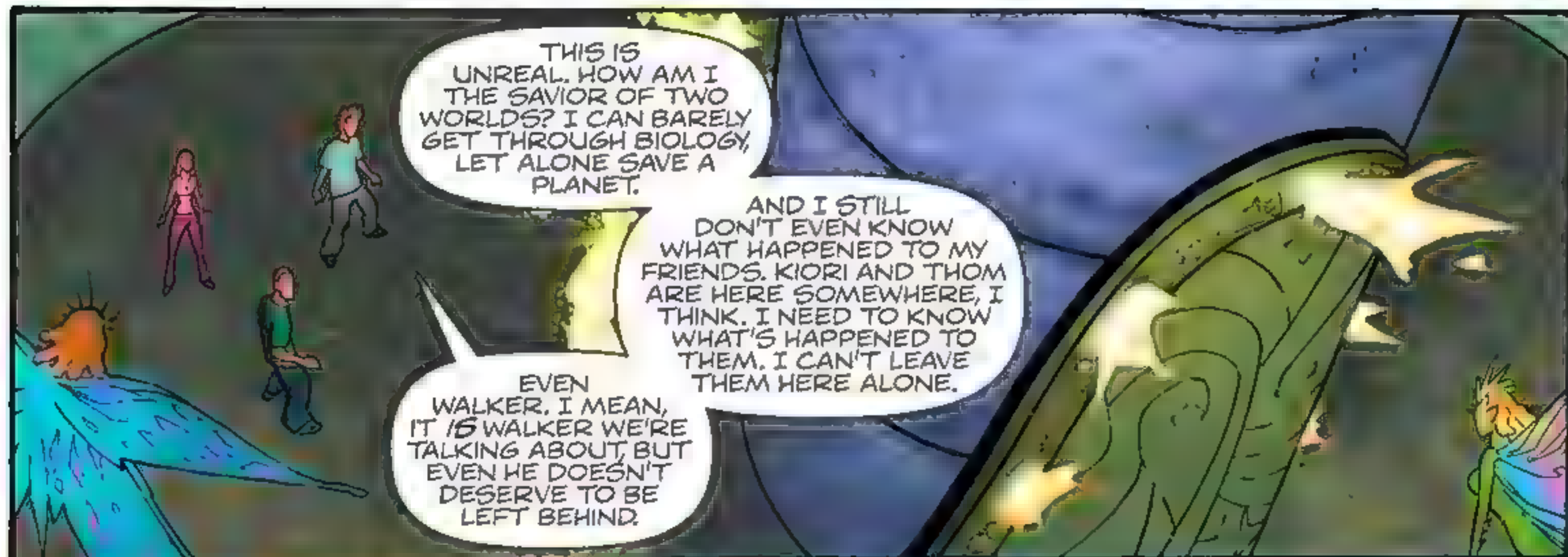
YEAH. WHY
FREAKBOY HERE?
WHAT MAKES HIM
MORE SPECIAL
THAN THE REST
OF US?

YOU HOLD
THE KEY TO OUR
SALVATION.

WHICH IS WHY
YOU NEED TO
LEAVE RIGHT
NOW.

OTHER LESS
WELCOMING BEINGS
KNOW OF YOUR ARRIVAL.
IF YOU'RE CAUGHT HERE,
NOT ONLY WOULD IT BE
THE END OF OUR
WORLD...

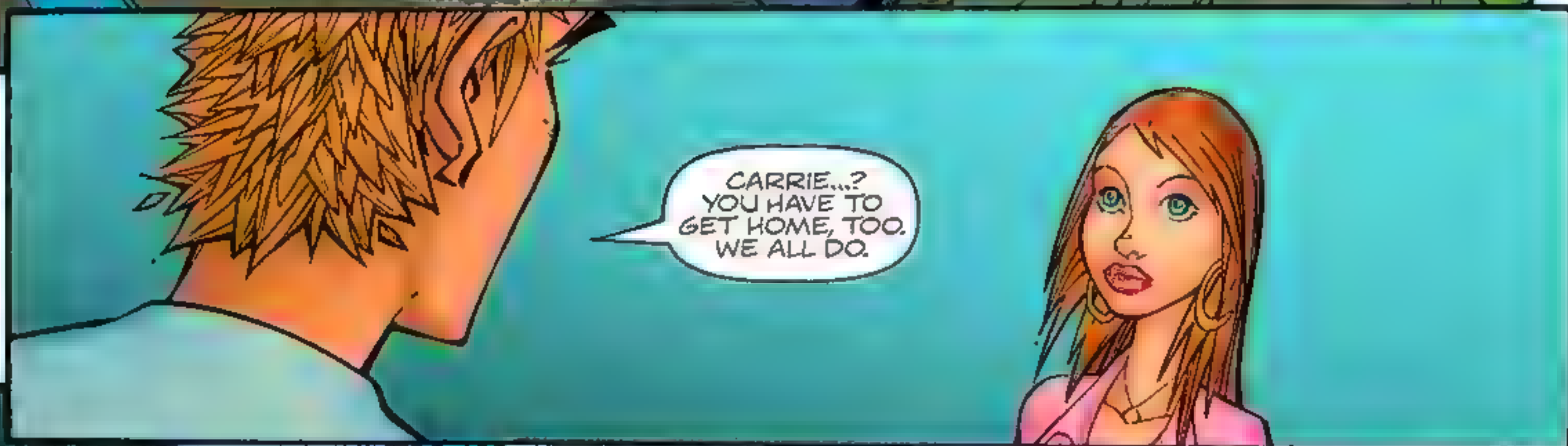
BUT THE
END OF YOURS
AS WELL.



THIS IS UNREAL. HOW AM I THE SAVIOR OF TWO WORLDS? I CAN BARELY GET THROUGH BIOLOGY, LET ALONE SAVE A PLANET.

AND I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FRIENDS. KIORI AND THOM ARE HERE SOMEWHERE, I THINK. I NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM. I CAN'T LEAVE THEM HERE ALONE.

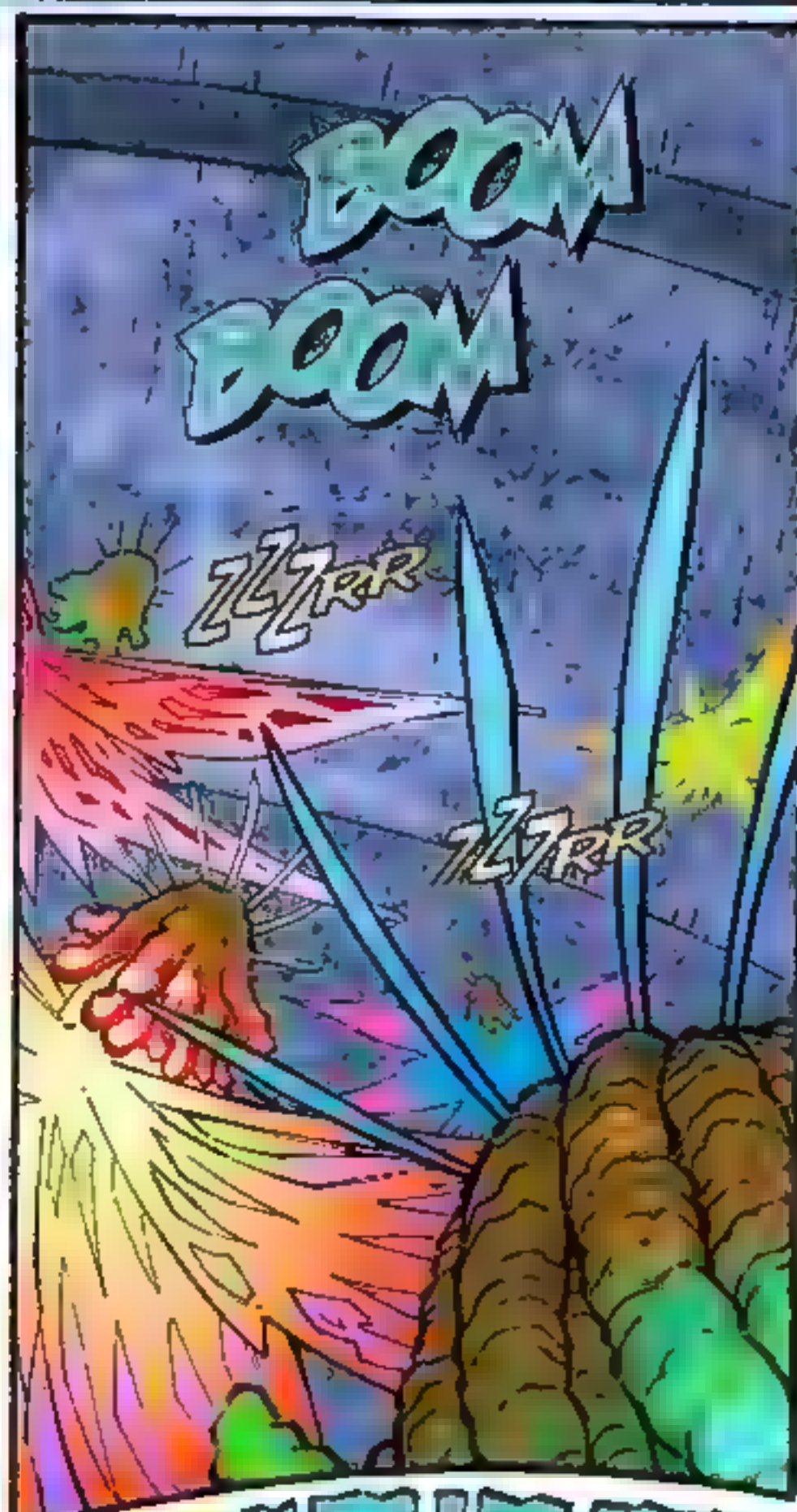
EVEN WALKER. I MEAN, IT IS WALKER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT EVEN HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE LEFT BEHIND.



CARRIE...? YOU HAVE TO GET HOME, TOO. WE ALL DO.



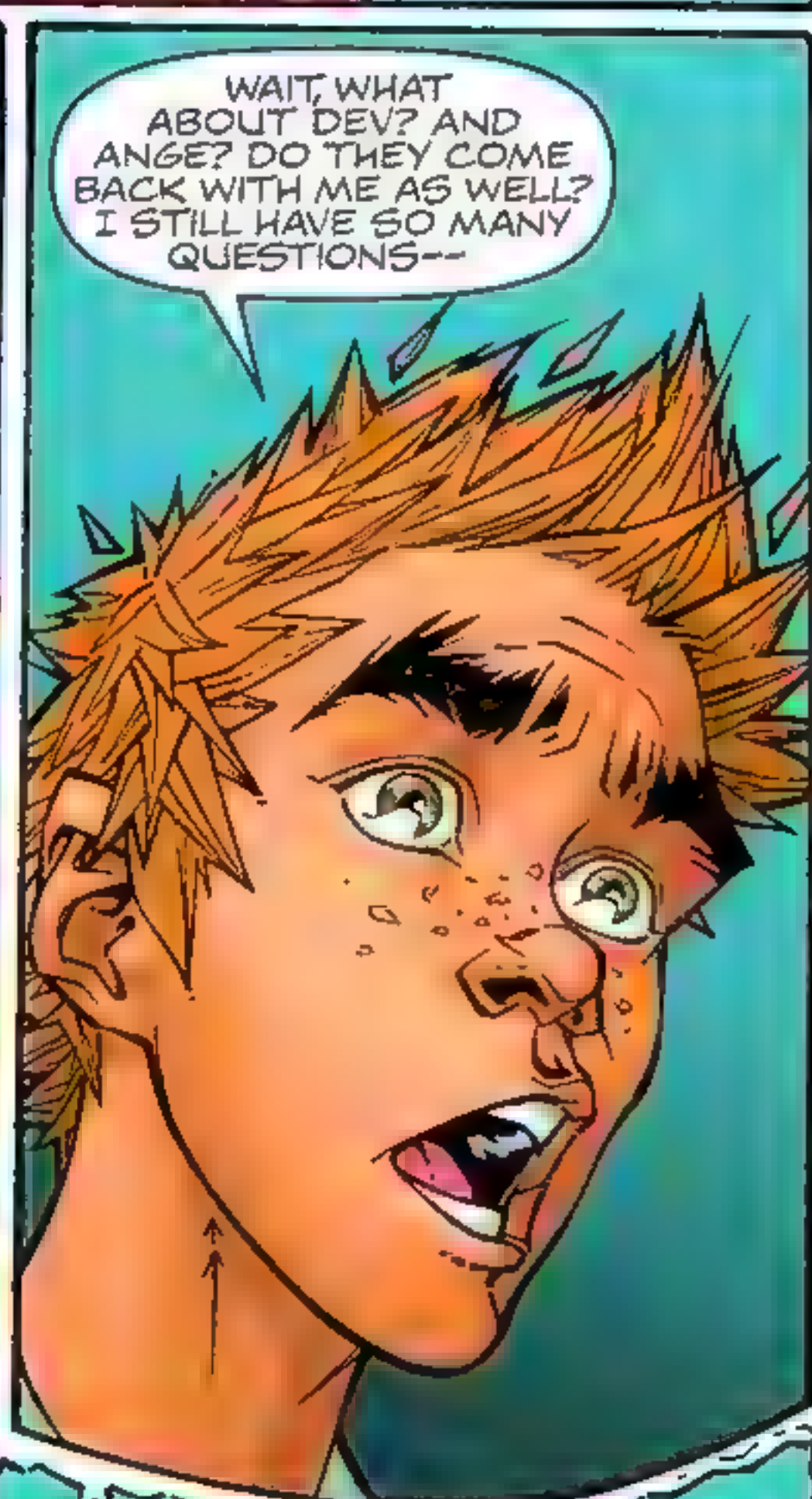
YOUR TRANSFERSCENDING BACK TO EARTH WILL TRIGGER THEIR RETURN, BUT YOU NEED TO BE THE FIRST TO LEAVE. YOU MUST HURRY.



BOOM
BOOM

ZZZRR

ZZZRR



WAIT, WHAT ABOUT DEV? AND ANGE? DO THEY COME BACK WITH ME AS WELL? I STILL HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS--



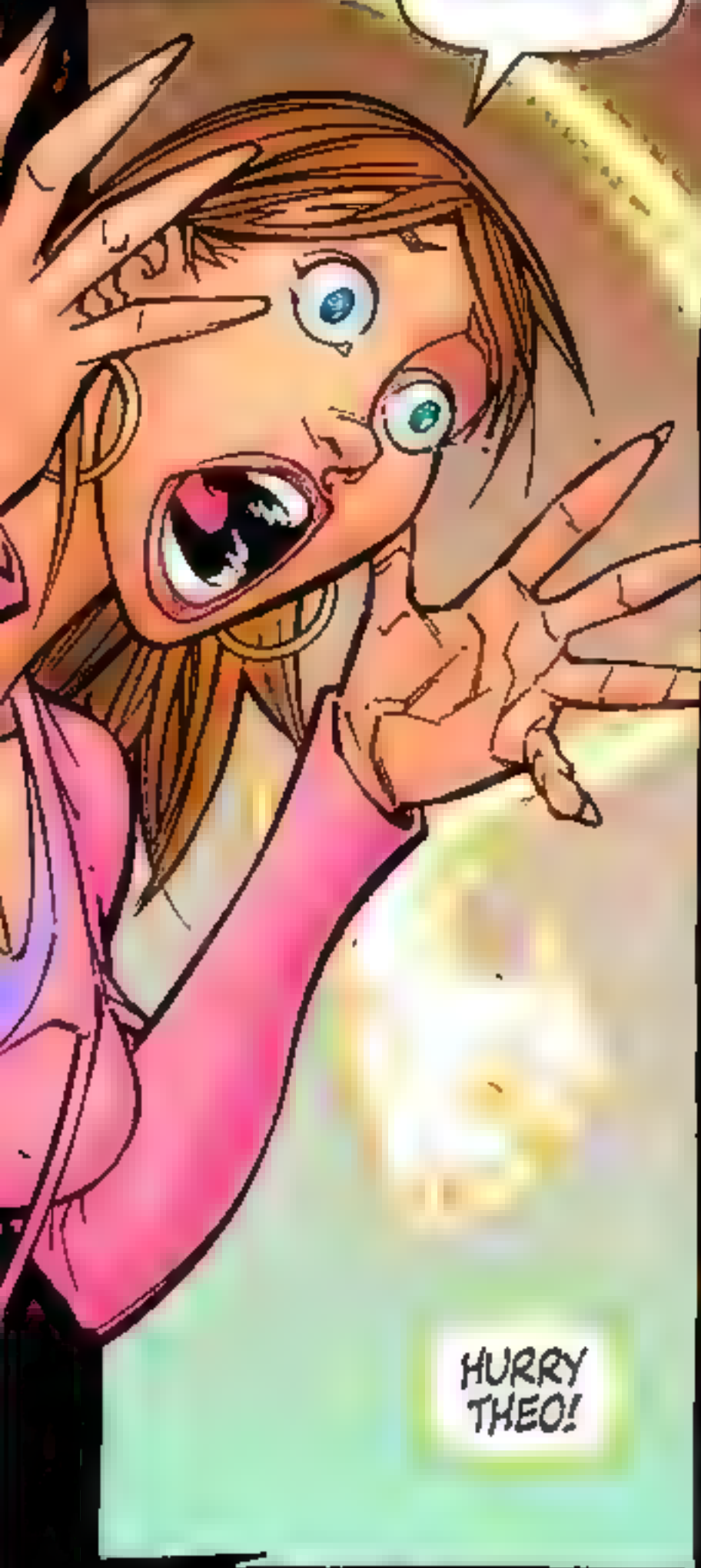
THERE IS NO MORE TIME. YOU MUST LEAVE.

DON'T BE A WUSS MAN. GET A MOVE ON!

IT'LL BE ALRIGHT THEO. WE'LL SEE YOU--



AAAAHHH!



HURRY
THEO!

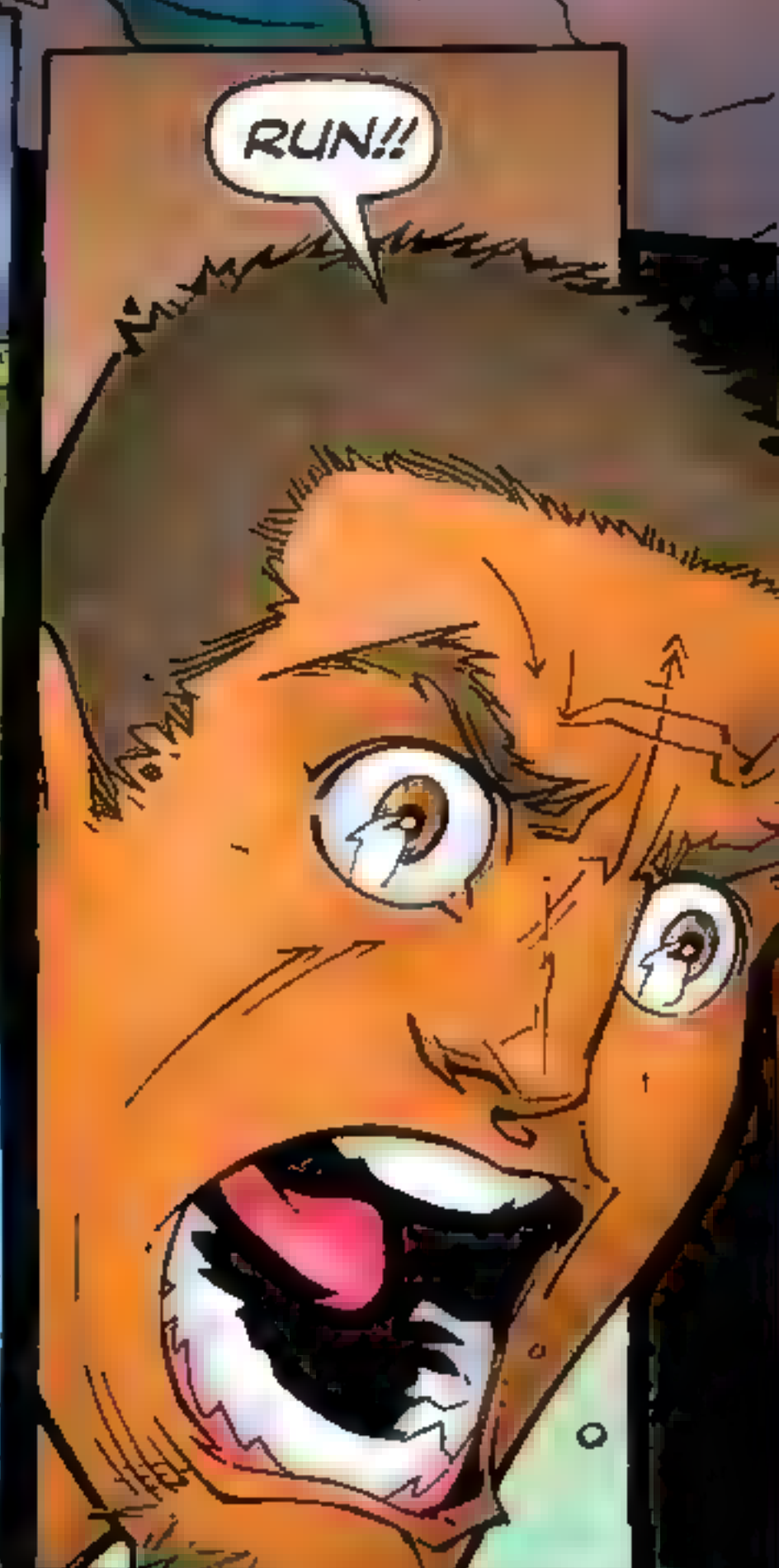
AW MAN, WHAT DO I DO,
WHAT DO I DO? LEAVE
MY FRIENDS? BELIEVE
WHAT I'M HEARING?
STAY? GO? THIS IS NUTS!

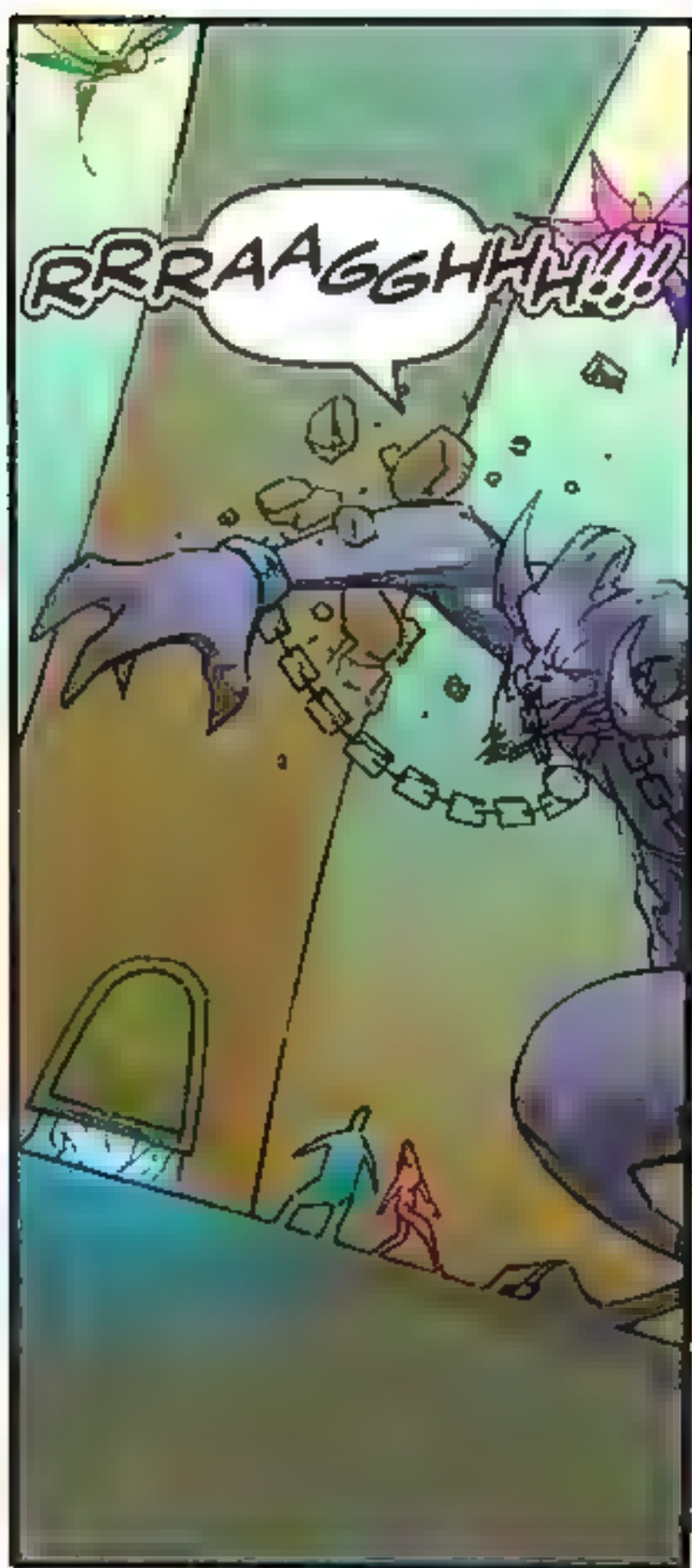


OK! SEE
YOU GUYS ON
THE FLIP
SIDE!



RUN!!





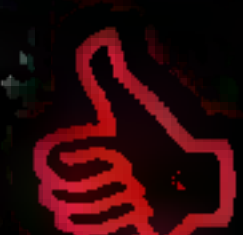
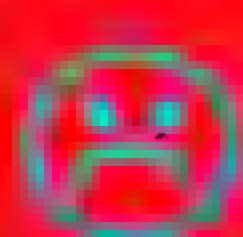
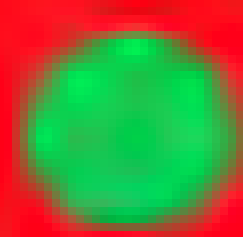
ASPEN
Vol. 1

#7
OF 8
COVER A

SHROGGED



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SHRUGGED

Written by:

Michael Turner



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Letters:

Josh Reed

VOLUME ONE ISSUE **SEVEN** OF EIGHT

Written by: **Michael Turner** / **Frank Mastromauro**

Digital Editors Design and Production: Lettering font designed by:

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ELYSIA.

ANGE!

NEFARIO

DEV! WHAT
HAPPENED
MAN!?!

C'MON
BUDDY, YOU
GOTTA GET
UP!!

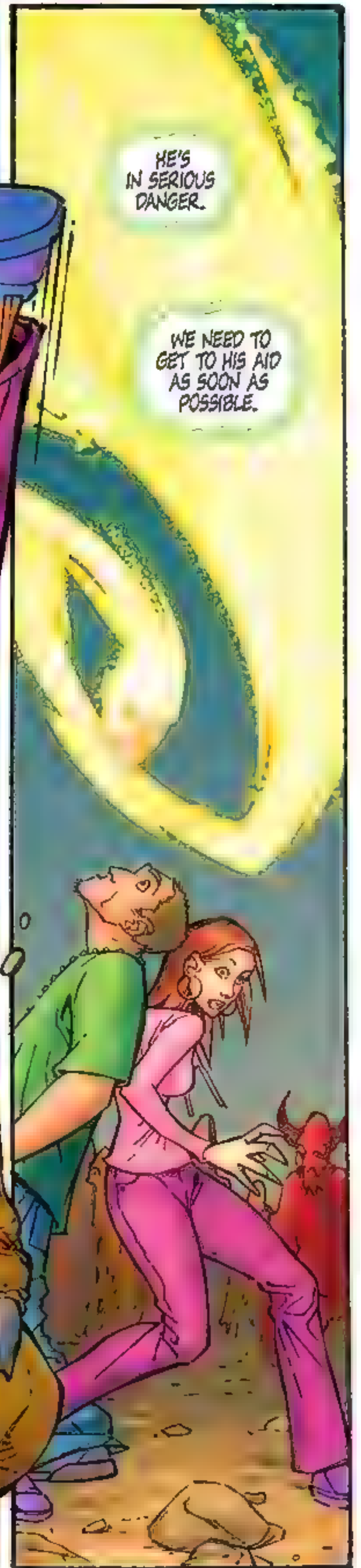
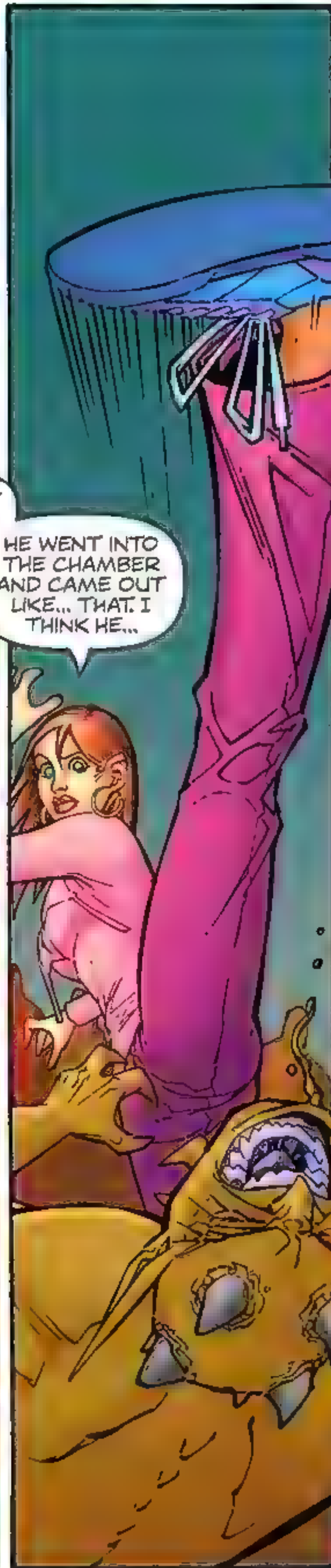
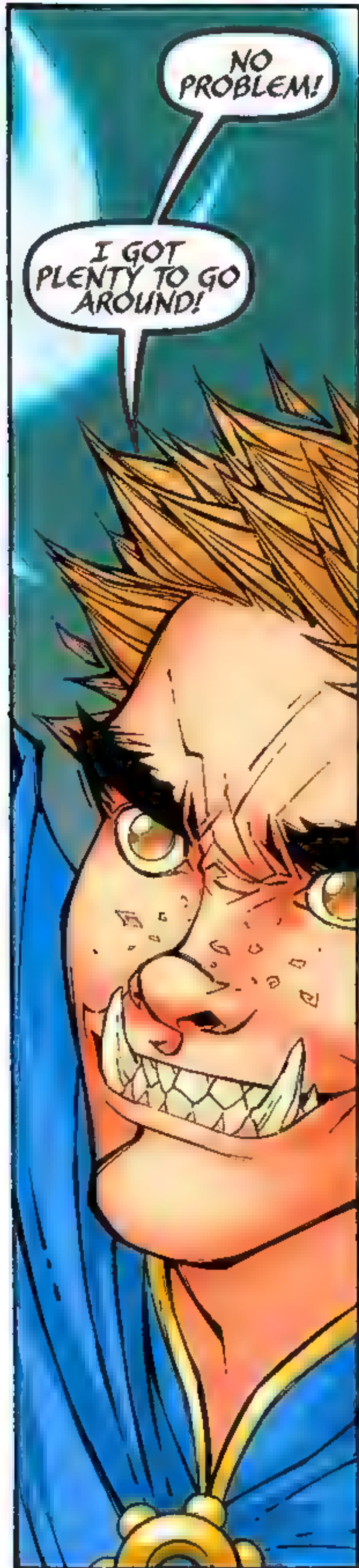
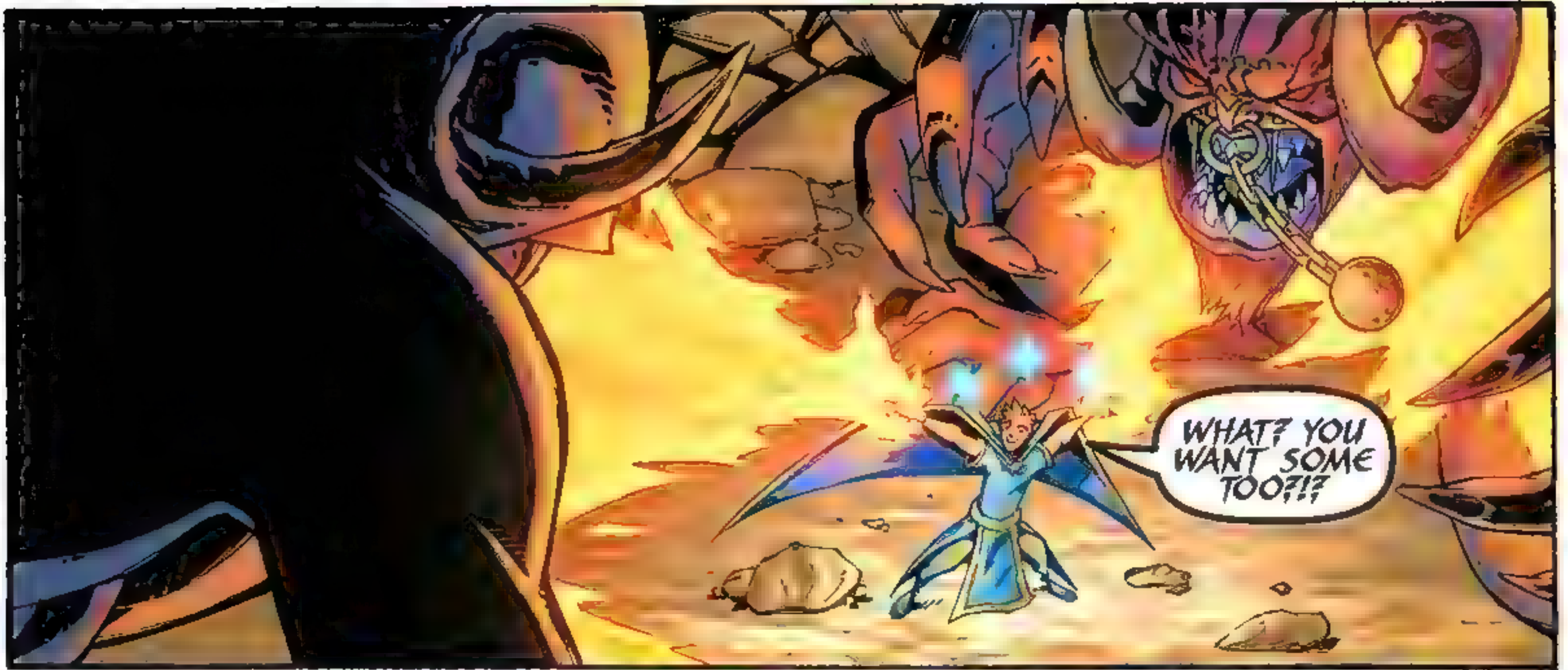
'SNIFF'
'SNIFF'

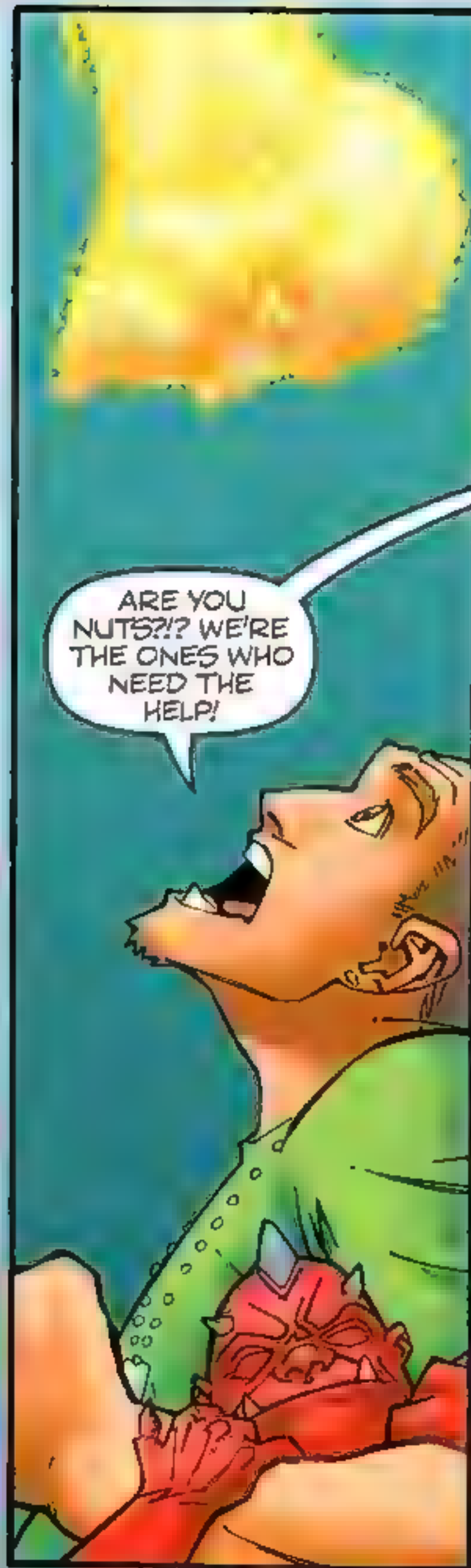
DEV DEV
DEV!

SOMEWHERE IN PERSPECTA.

COME
AND GET
SOME!!!



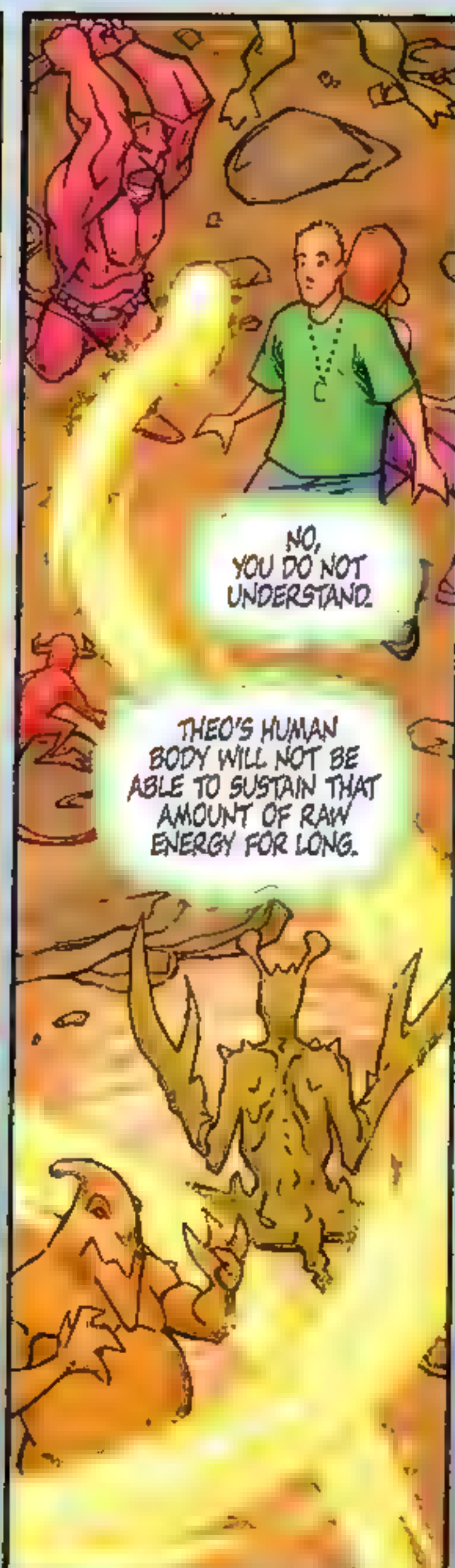




ARE YOU NUTS?? WE'RE THE ONES WHO NEED THE HELP!

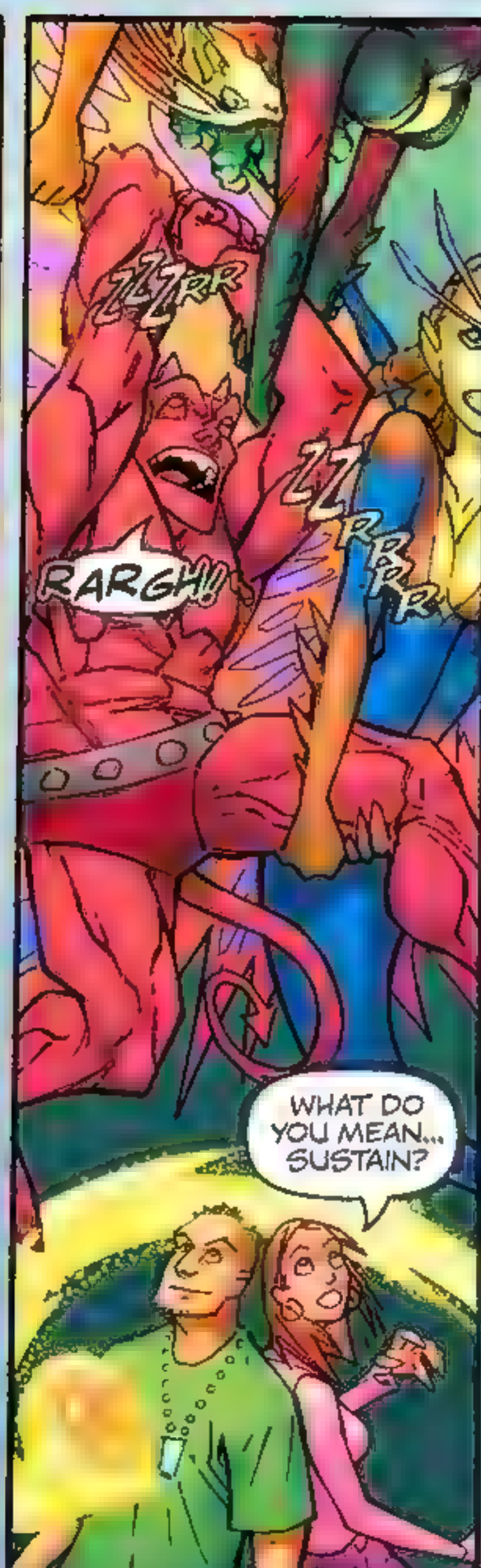


IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S DOING PRETTY DAMN OK TO ME!



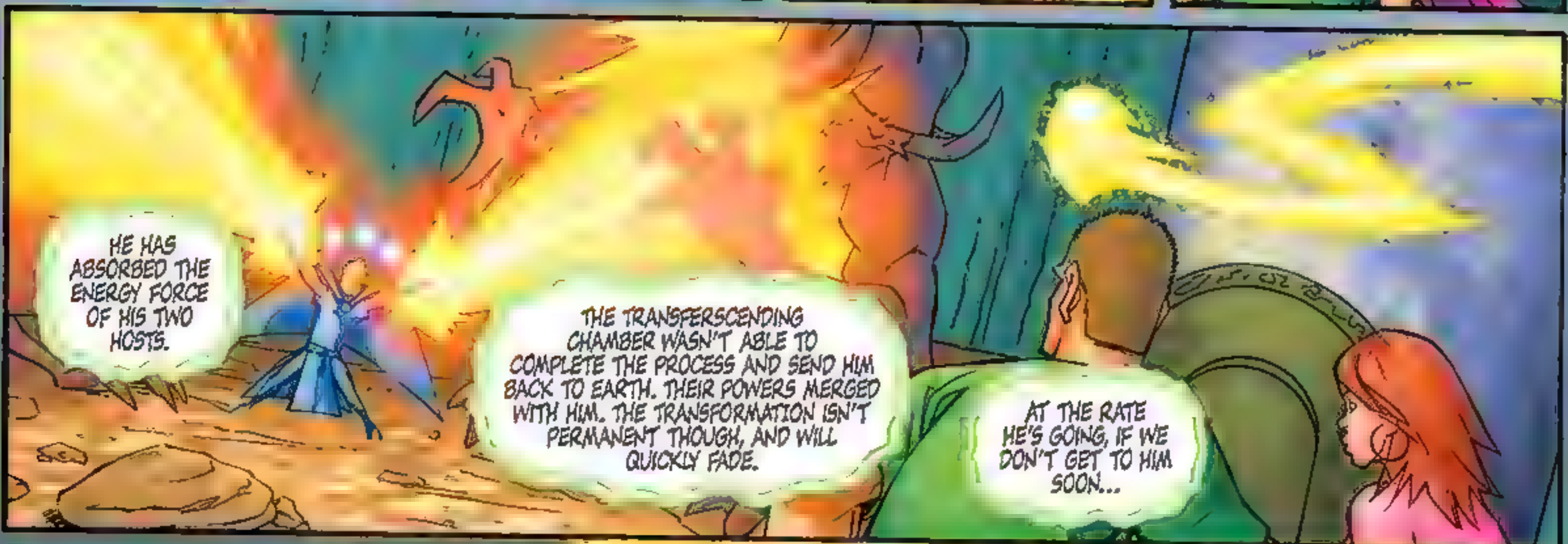
NO, YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

THEO'S HUMAN BODY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THAT AMOUNT OF RAW ENERGY FOR LONG.



RARGH!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN... SUSTAIN?



HE HAS ABSORBED THE ENERGY FORCE OF HIS TWO HOSTS.

THE TRANSFERSENDING CHAMBER WASN'T ABLE TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS AND SEND HIM BACK TO EARTH. THEIR POWERS MERGED WITH HIM. THE TRANSFORMATION ISN'T PERMANENT THOUGH, AND WILL QUICKLY FADE.

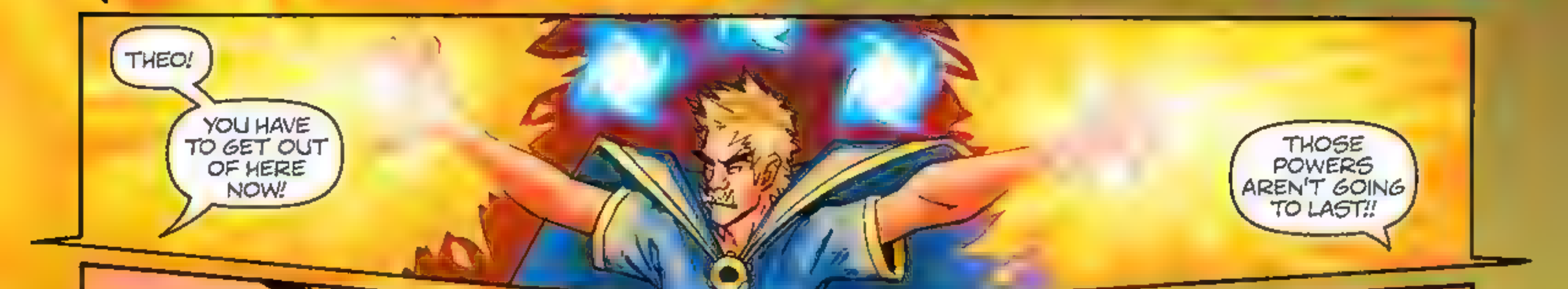
AT THE RATE HE'S GOING, IF WE DON'T GET TO HIM SOON...



HIS ENTIRE BODY WILL COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN WITHIN A MATTER OF MINUTES.



OH MY GOD,
WE HAVE TO
WARN HIM. HE'LL BE
KILLED BY THOSE
THINGS!



THEO!

YOU HAVE
TO GET OUT
OF HERE
NOW!

THOSE
POWERS
AREN'T GOING
TO LAST!!



NO!!!

THESE
CREATURES
NEED TO FEEL
THE TRUE
WRATH OF MY
FURY!

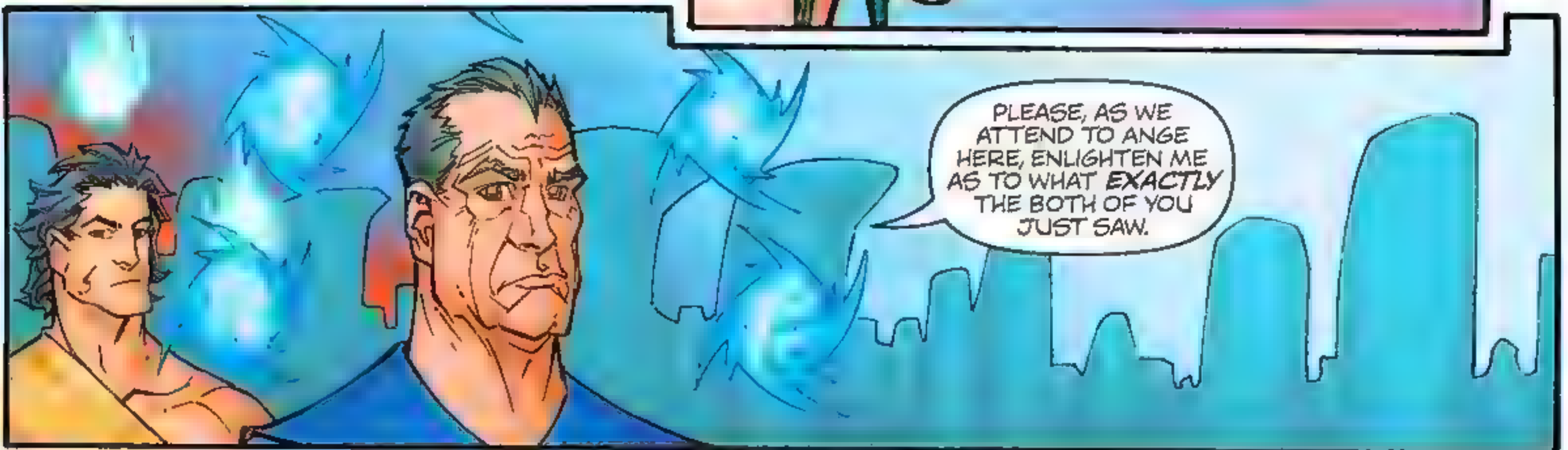
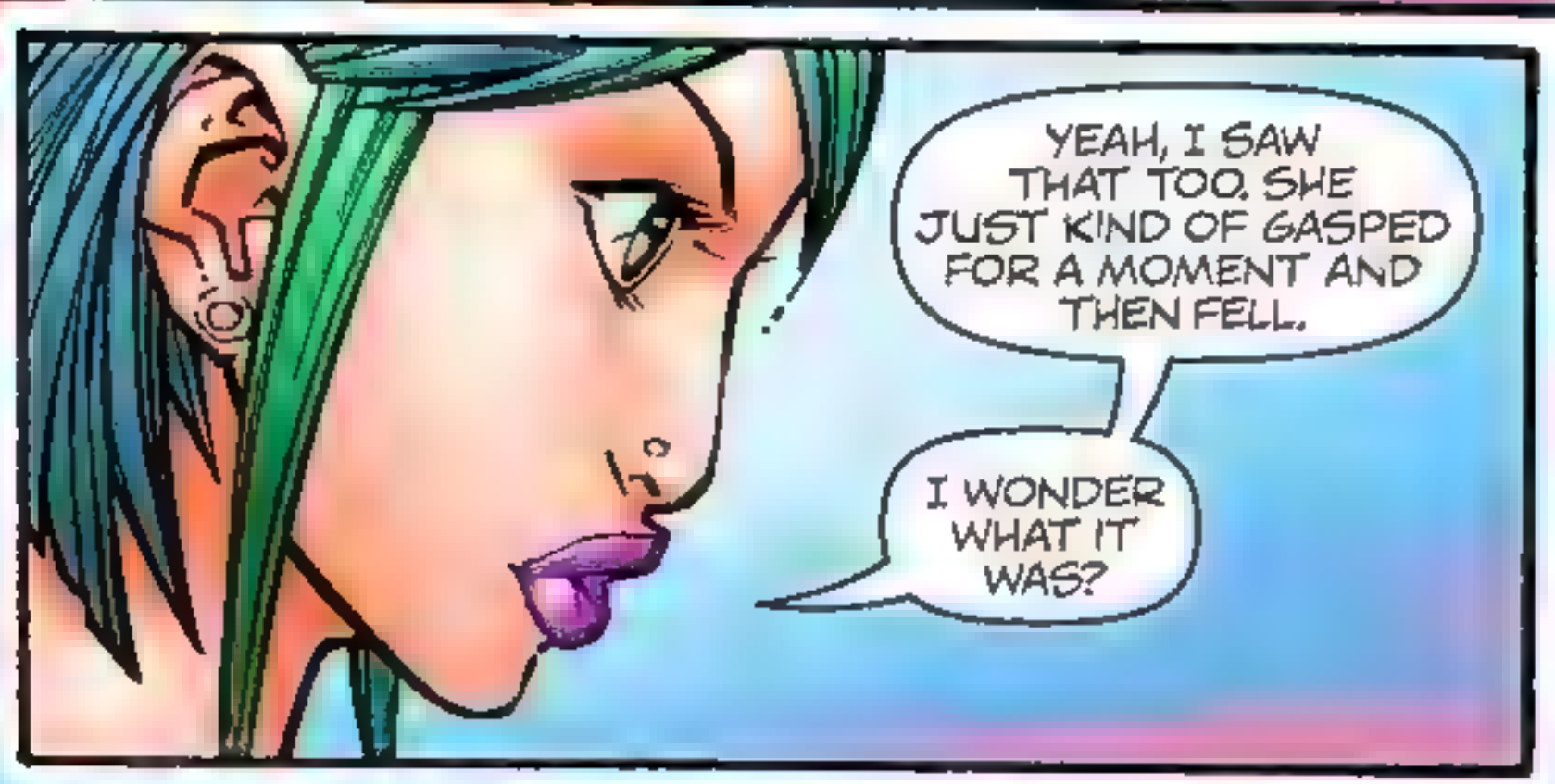
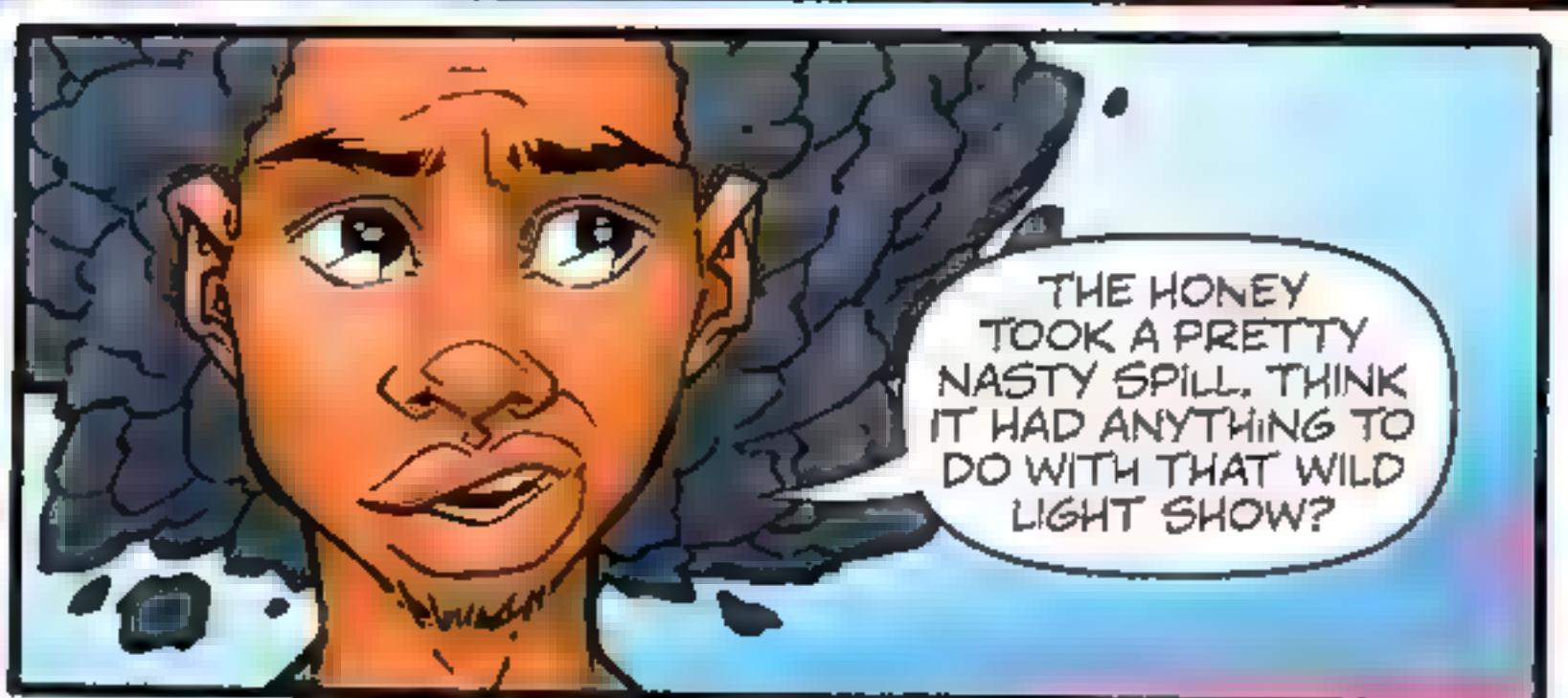
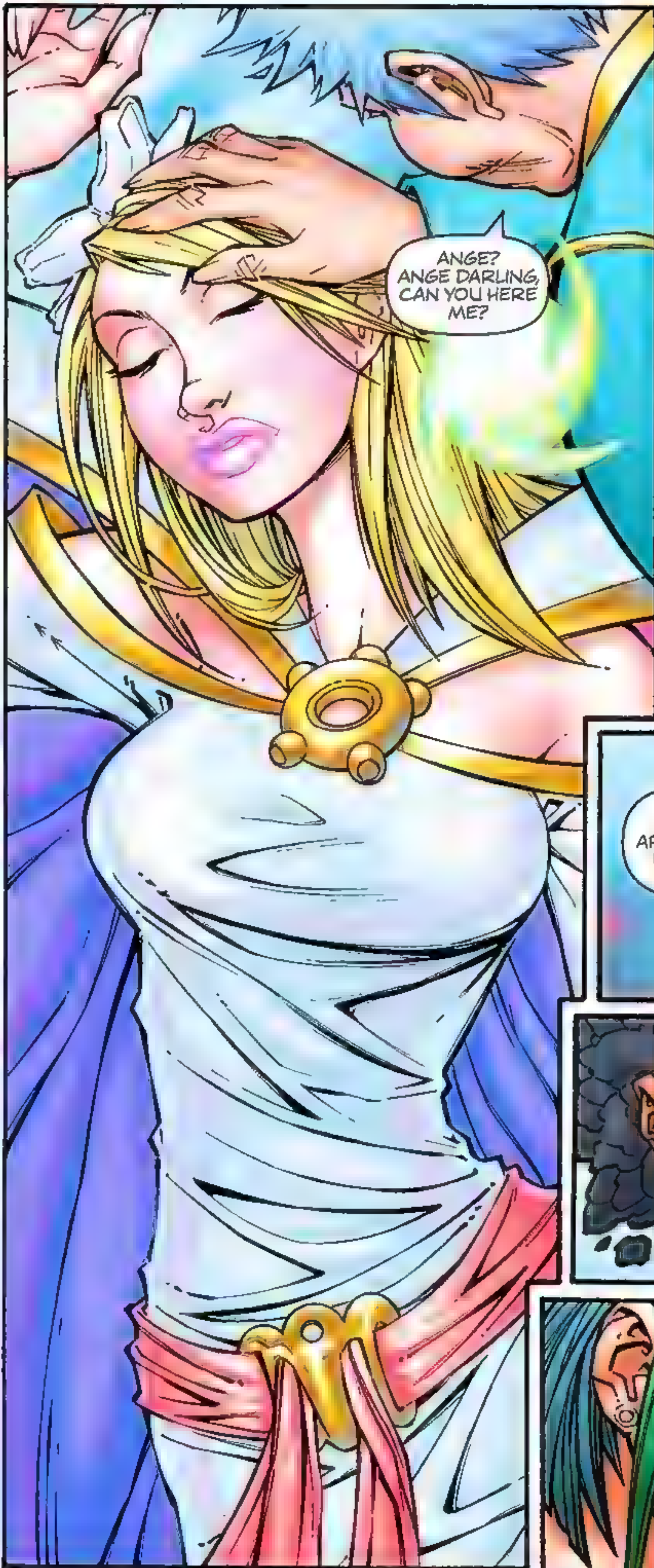


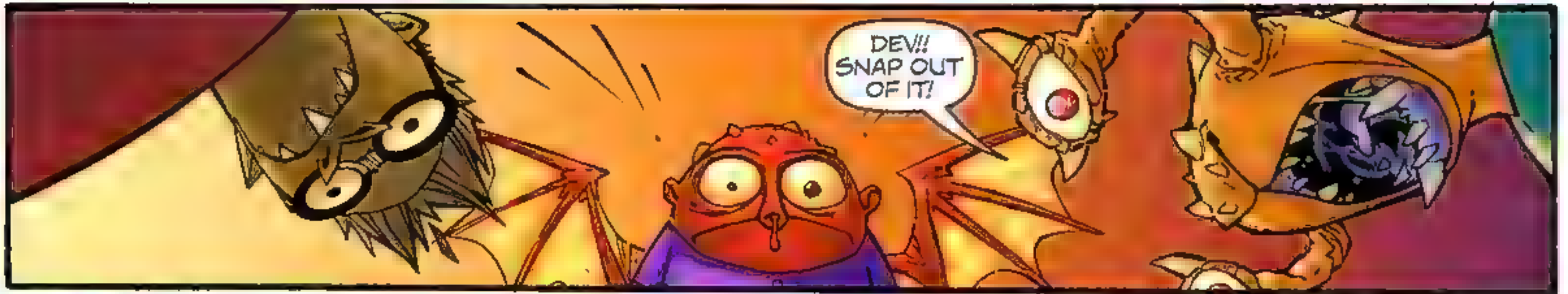
I
WILL NOT
YIELD...

I
WILL NOT
RUN...



AND I
WILL NOT BE
DEFEATED!!!





DEV!!!
SNAP OUT
OF IT!



I DON'T SEE
HIM BREATHING.
NORMALLY YOU CAN
HEAR HIS HUFFING
AND PUFFING FROM
BLOCKS AWAY.

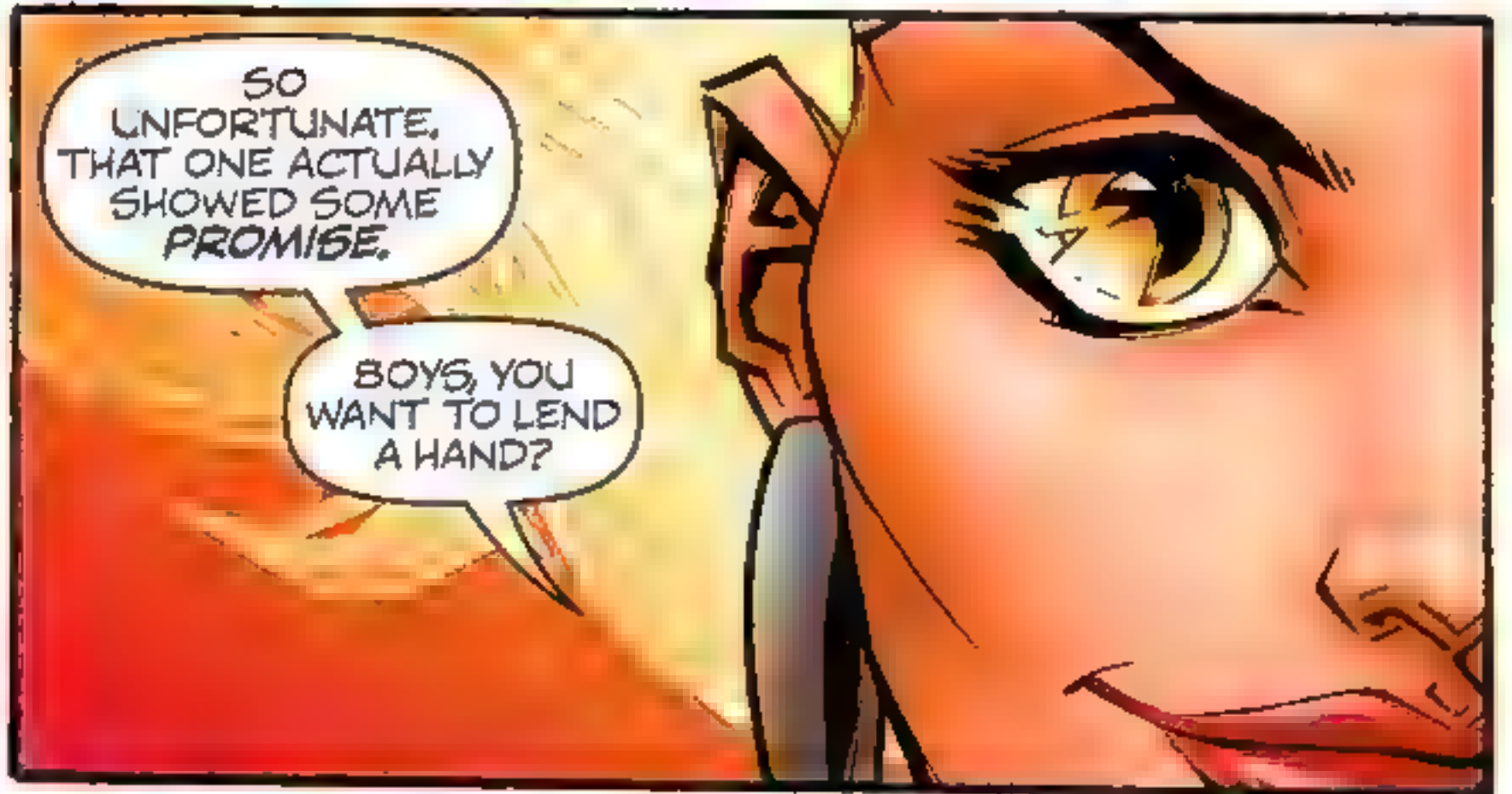
HUFF AND
PUFF, DEV! HUFF
AND PUFF! HUFF
AND --

PUT A SOCK IN IT
GOO! DEV'S BREATHING,
HE'S JUST KNOCKED OUT.
SOMETHING STRANGE
HAPPENED.

HE WENT DOWN
LIKE A TON OF BRICKS
WHEN THAT FLASH OF LIGHT
STRUCK HIM. IT'S AS IF--



ALL OF HIS
POWER HAS
BEEN TAKEN
AWAY?



SO
UNFORTUNATE,
THAT ONE ACTUALLY
SHOWED SOME
PROMISE.

BOYS, YOU
WANT TO LEND
A HAND?

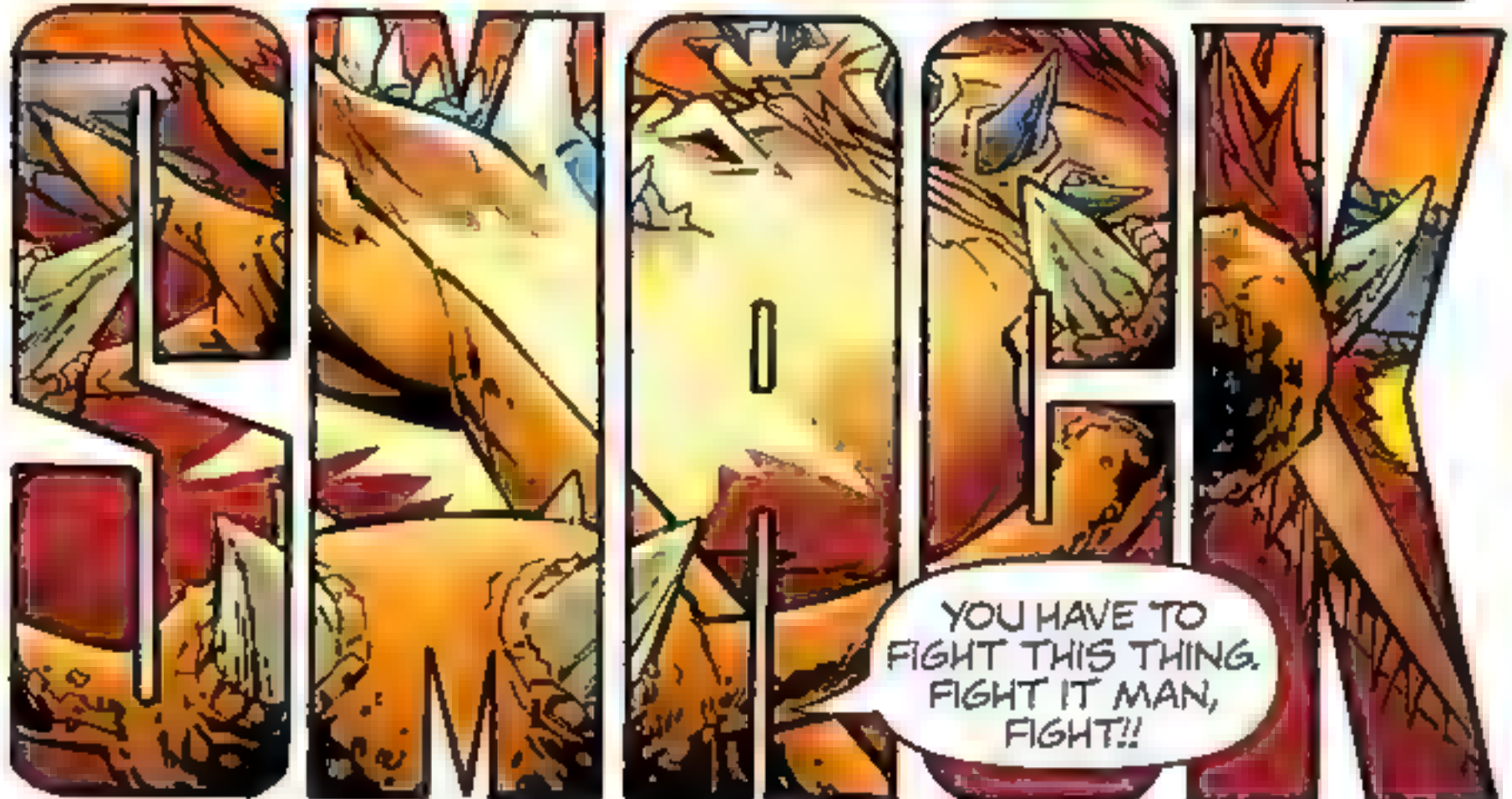


WITH
PLEASURE!

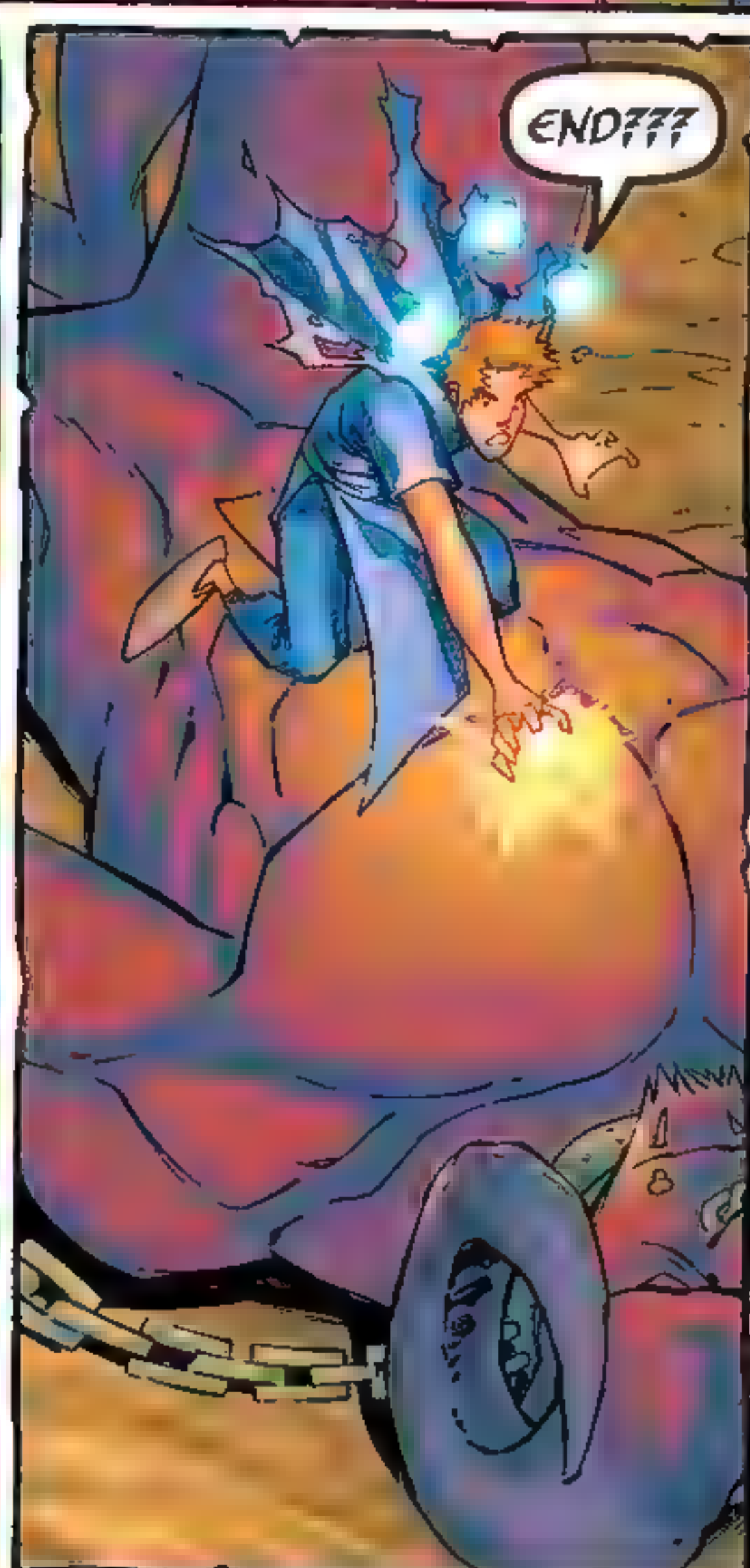
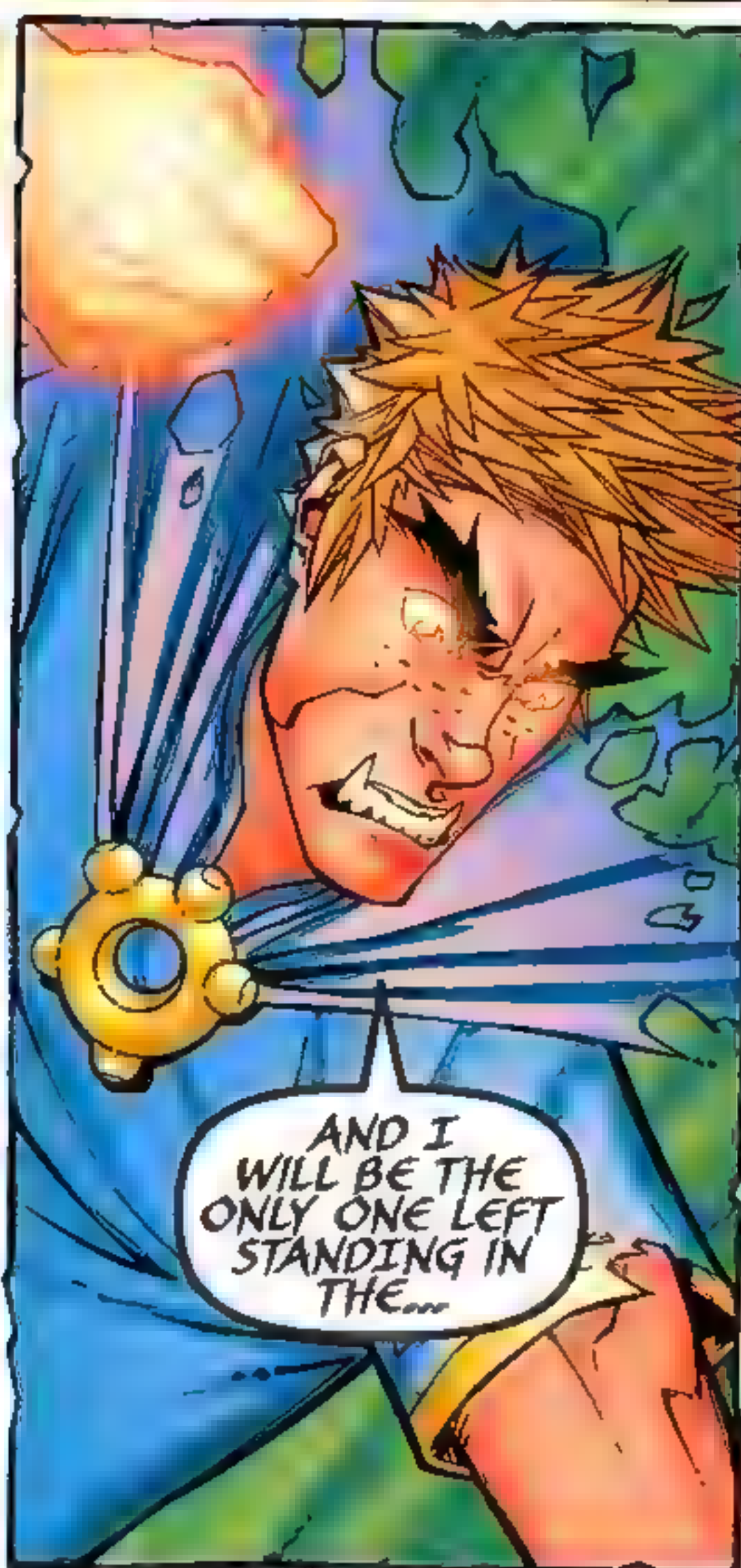
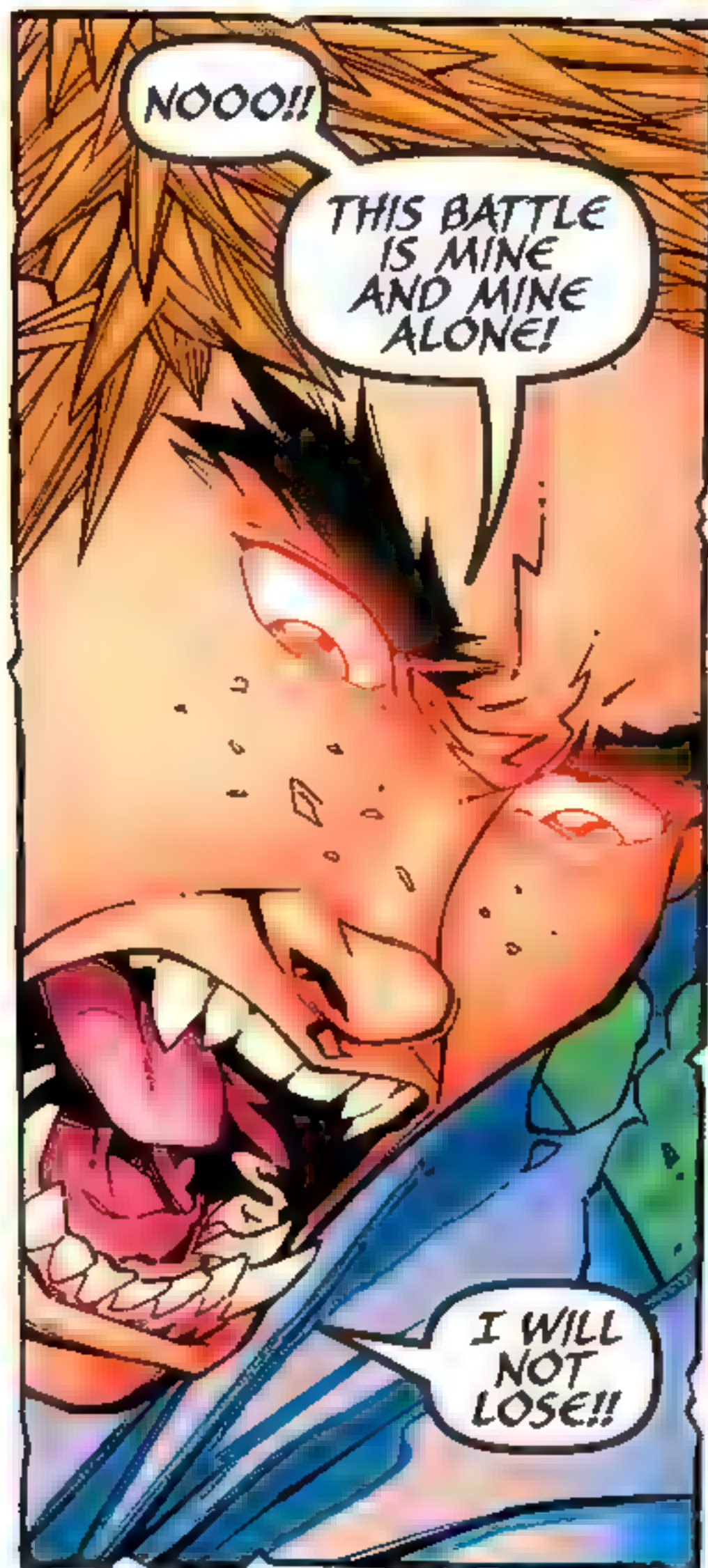


WAIT! I
THINK... UM, HE'S
STARTING TO
COME TO!

DAMMIT!
WAKE UP
DEV.



YOU HAVE TO
FIGHT THIS THING.
FIGHT IT MAN,
FIGHT!!





WHA....
WHAT'S GOING
ON?



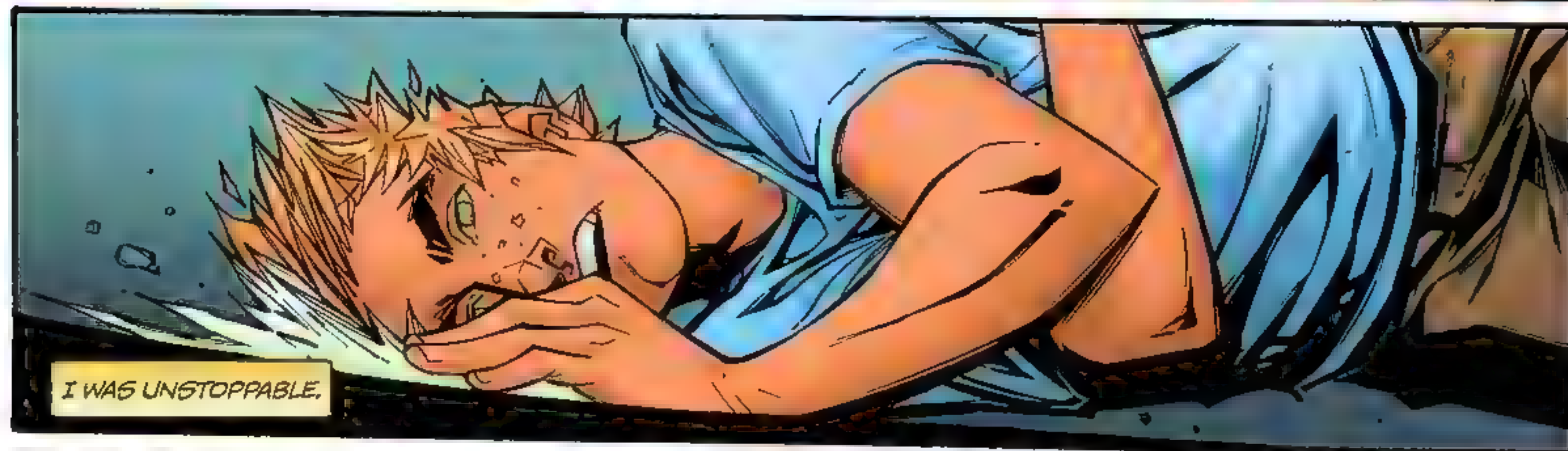
NO, THIS CAN'T
BE... HAPPENING.



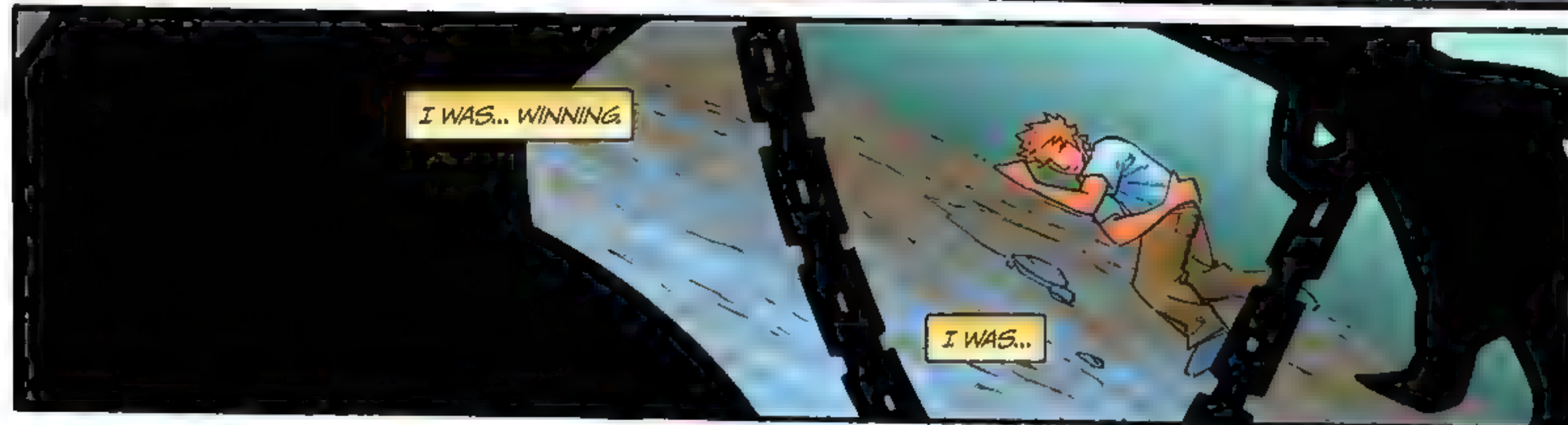
I HAD STRENGTH.



I... I HAD
POWER.



I WAS UNSTOPPABLE.



I WAS... WINNING

I WAS...



THE MAN.

EMBER'S CHAMBER.

DAMN. WHAT HIT ME? I FEEL LIKE A USED DISHRAG.

WE'RE NOT REALLY SURE WHAT HAPPENED THERE WAS THIS BURST OF LIGHT AND THEN YOU FELL TO THE GROUND.

GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE ALRIGHT. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER.

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO CASH ME OUT. BUT I THINK I NEED SOME--

REST, DARLING?

YES. TAKE ALL OF THE TIME YOU NEED. NONE OF US ARE IN A HURRY.

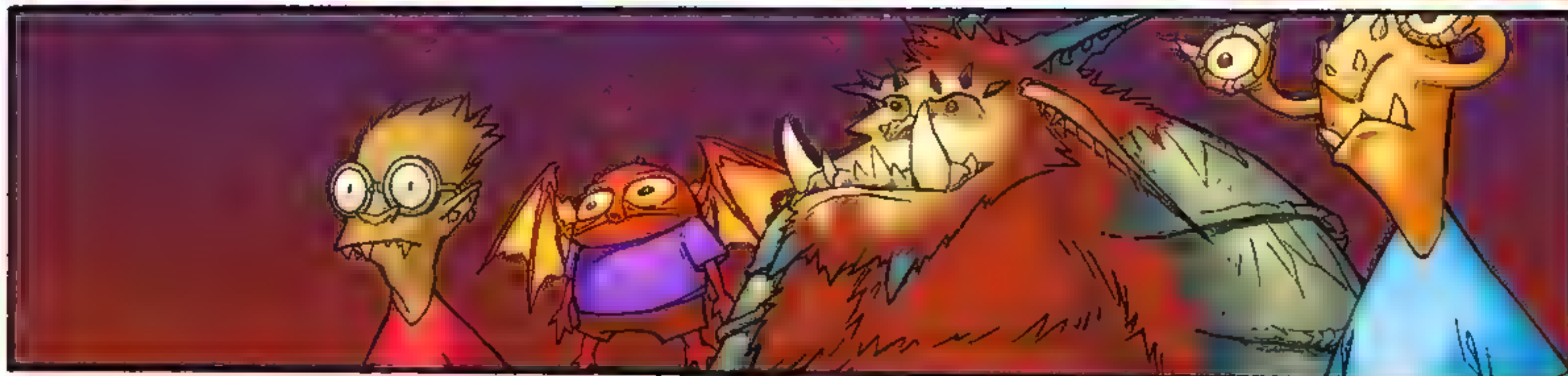
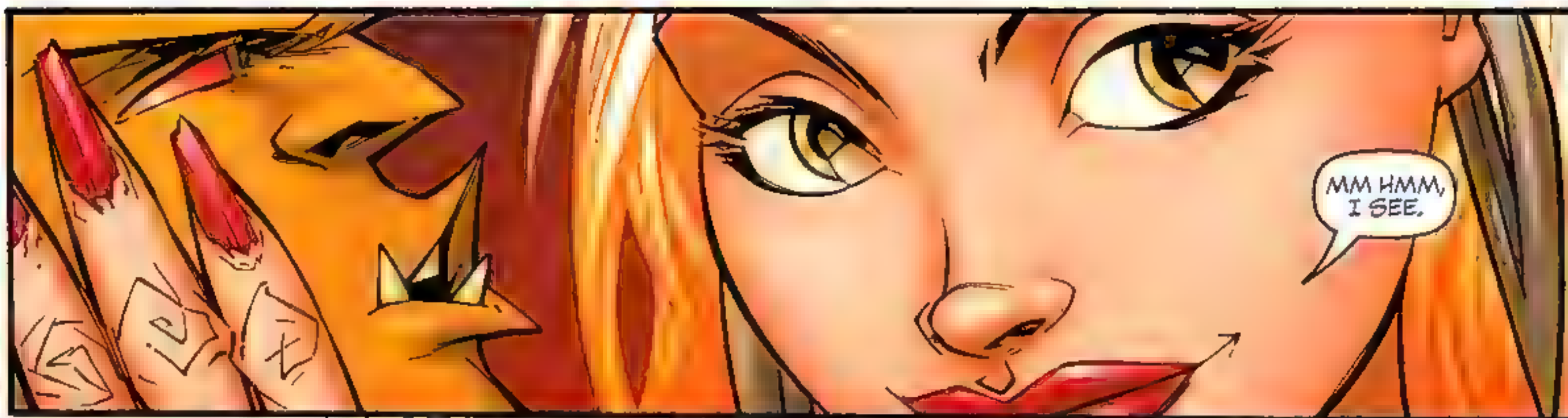
UH, NAH, I'LL BE FINE. JUST NEED TO CATCH MY BREATH IS ALL.

WE'RE HERE FOR A REASON THOUGH. WE WANTED TO REQUEST YOUR HELP TO...

YOUR HIGHNESS! YOUR HIGHNESS!

MY APOLOGIES FOR THE INTERRUPTION MY QUEEN, BUT YOU'LL WANT TO HEAR THE NEWS I BRING.

YES?

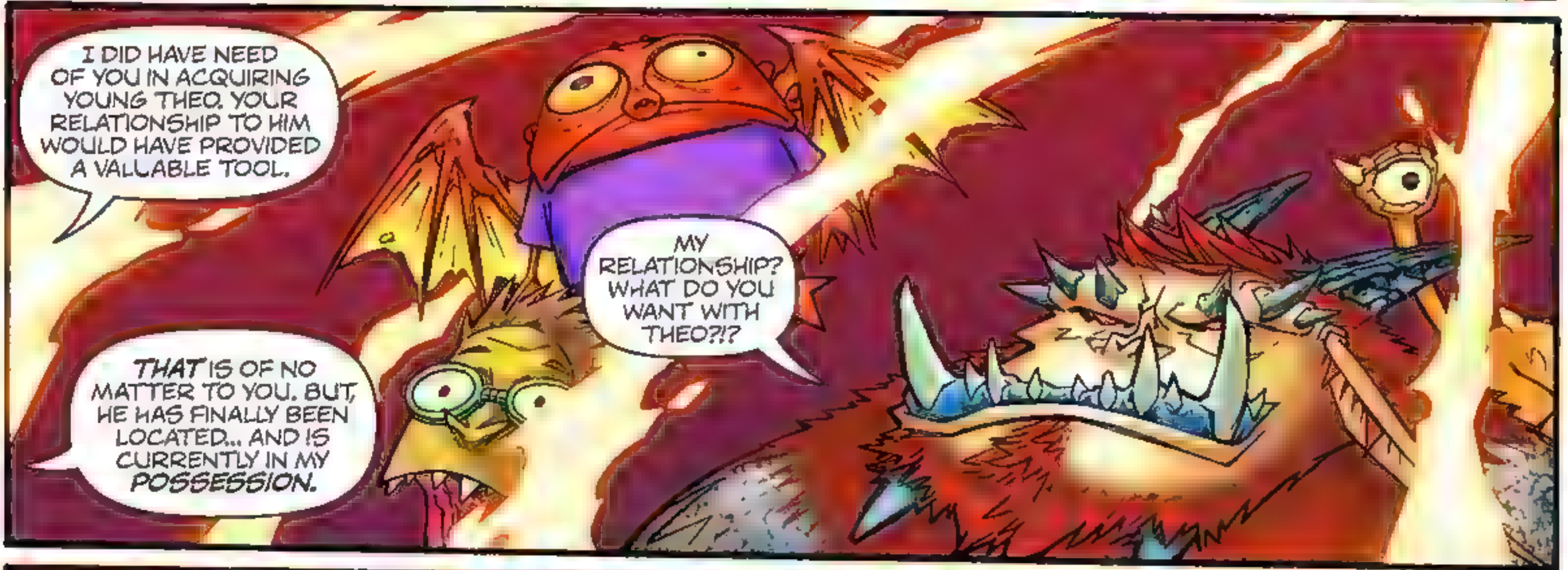




IT WOULD SEEM
THE HELP YOU WERE
LOOKING FOR, ME,
WILL NO LONGER BE
OF SERVICE.

HEY!

WHAT'S
GOING ON??



I DID HAVE NEED
OF YOU IN ACQUIRING
YOUNG THEO. YOUR
RELATIONSHIP TO HIM
WOULD HAVE PROVIDED
A VALLABLE TOOL.

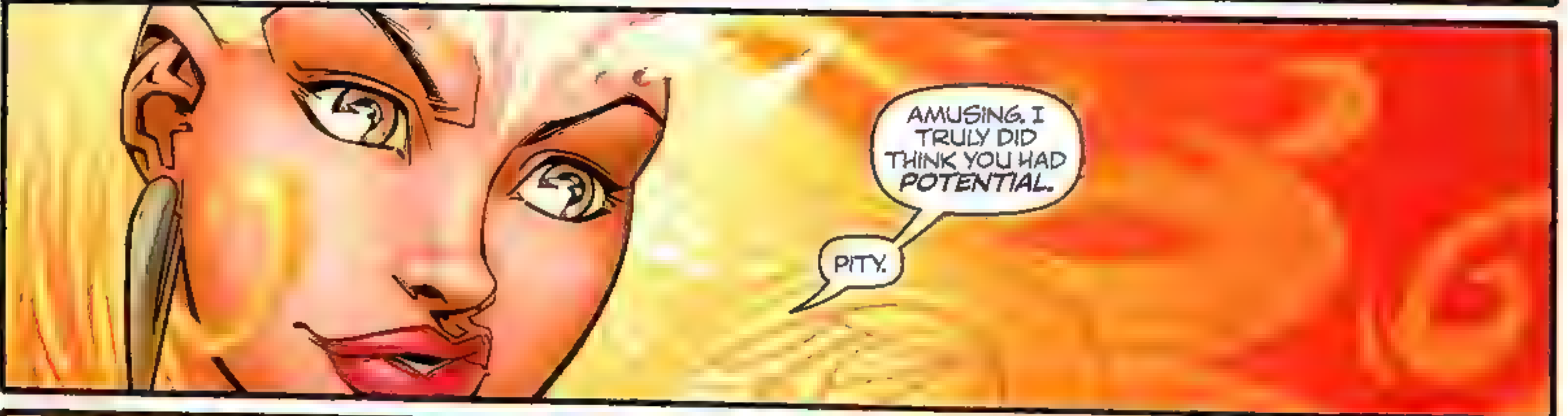
MY
RELATIONSHIP?
WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH
THEO??

THAT IS OF NO
MATTER TO YOU. BUT,
HE HAS FINALLY BEEN
LOCATED... AND IS
CURRENTLY IN MY
POSSESSION.



SO, IT
WOULD NOW
SEEM THAT YOU
ARE NO LONGER
REQUIRED

WHAT?!? YOU'RE
SERIOUSLY
WHACKED OUT
LADY!



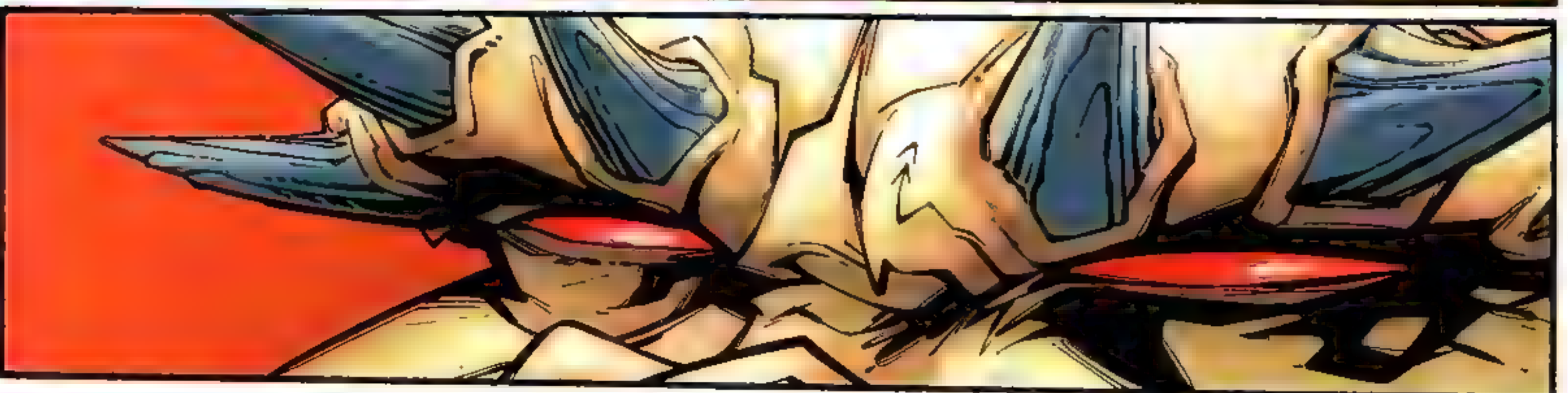
AMUSING. I
TRULY DID
THINK YOU HAD
POTENTIAL.

PITY.



ENJOY YOUR
REMAINING TIME
TOGETHER
GENTLEMEN.

WHAT
LITTLE OF IT
YOU HAVE
LEFT.





THANK GOODNESS YOU ARE DOING BETTER. YOU GAVE US QUITE A SCARE.

DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED?

NOT MUCH. ALL OF A SUDDEN, EVERYTHING WENT BLANK.

ALL OF MY STRENGTH WAS JUST... GONE.

THANKFULLY, I AM FEELING MUCH BETTER NOW.

HOWEVER, IT IS NOT ME I AM WORRIED ABOUT. WE STILL NEED TO GET THE BOTH OF YOU BACK HOME.

THAT WOULD BE SWEETER THAN PIE. AFTER YOUR PARTNA'S BROUGHT US HERE, WE THOUGHT WE'D BE STUCK FOR SURE.

BUT WE STILL NEED TO FIND THEO. I'M SURE HE WANTS TO PUNCH HIS TICKET HOME AS MUCH AS WE DO.

REST ASSURED, WE WILL MAKE CERTAIN THEO GETS HOME AS WELL.

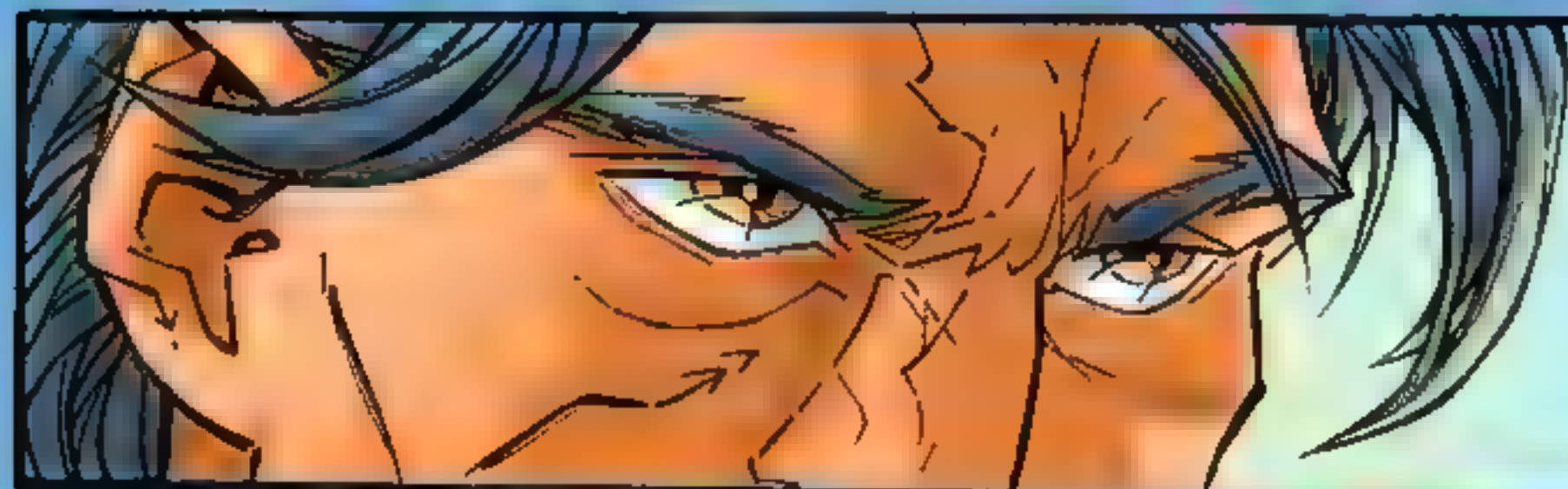
COME ON, LET US MAKE OUR WAY TO THE CHAMBER HALL.

I AM SURE WE WILL FIND A WAY TO SEND YOU BACK THERE.

YES, WELL, I HAVE A PRESSING MATTER TO ATTEND TO.

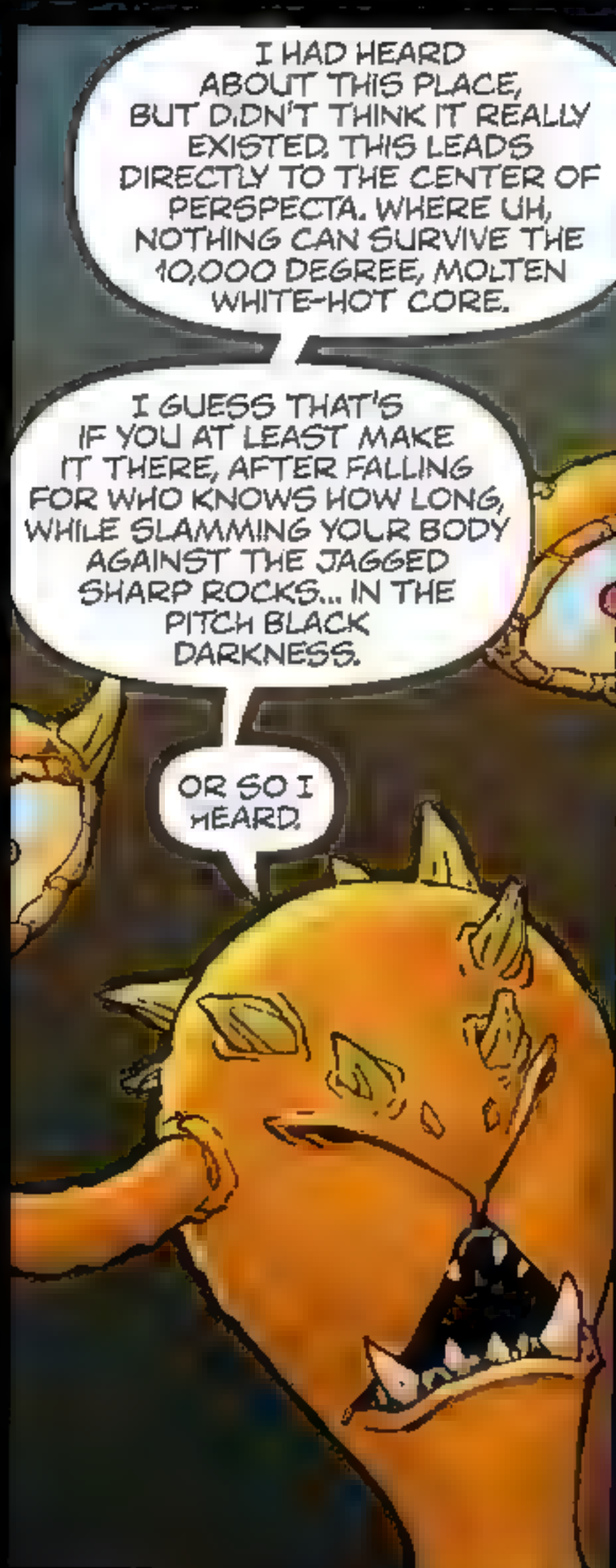
HOWEVER, MAGNUSS WILL ACCOMPANY YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY.

TO ENSURE YOU ALL ARRIVE THERE SAFELY.





WELL
THIS JUST
BITES!!



I HAD HEARD
ABOUT THIS PLACE,
BUT DIDN'T THINK IT REALLY
EXISTED. THIS LEADS
DIRECTLY TO THE CENTER OF
PERSPECTA. WHERE UH,
NOTHING CAN SURVIVE THE
10,000 DEGREE, MOLTEN
WHITE-HOT CORE.

I GUESS THAT'S
IF YOU AT LEAST MAKE
IT THERE, AFTER FALLING
FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG,
WHILE SLAMMING YOUR BODY
AGAINST THE JAGGED
SHARP ROCKS... IN THE
PITCH BLACK
DARKNESS.

OR SO I
HEARD.

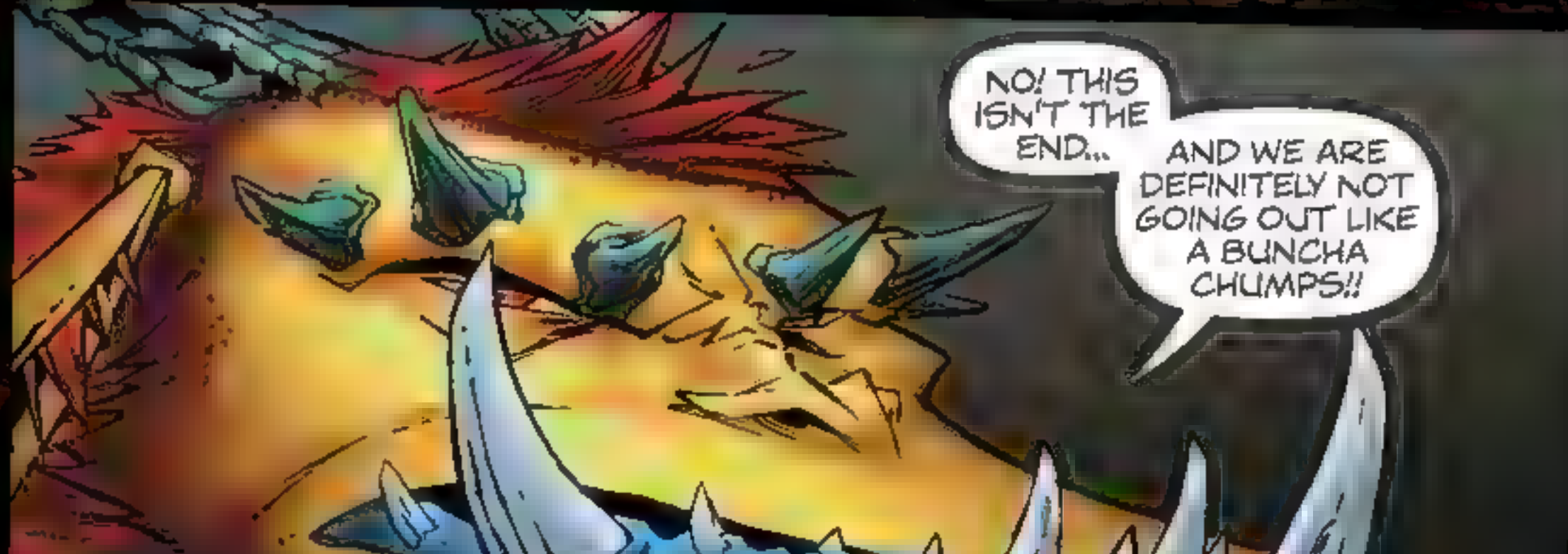


SHUT UP
ALREADY
SNOOF!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT'S GONNA
END LIKE THIS! I'M
TOO YOUNG! I'M MY
MAMMA'S LITTLE
BOY!

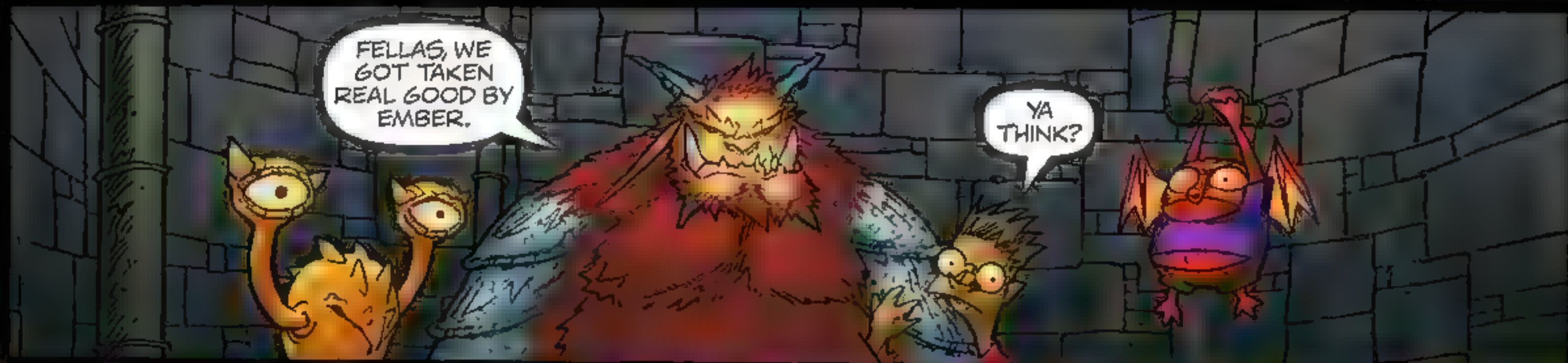


MAMMA'S
BOY! MAMMA'S
BOY! MAMMA'S
LITTLE BOY BOY
BOY BOY!



NO! THIS
ISN'T THE
END...

AND WE ARE
DEFINITELY NOT
GOING OUT LIKE
A BUNCHA
CHUMPS!!



FELLAS, WE
GOT TAKEN
REAL GOOD BY
EMBER.

YA
THINK?



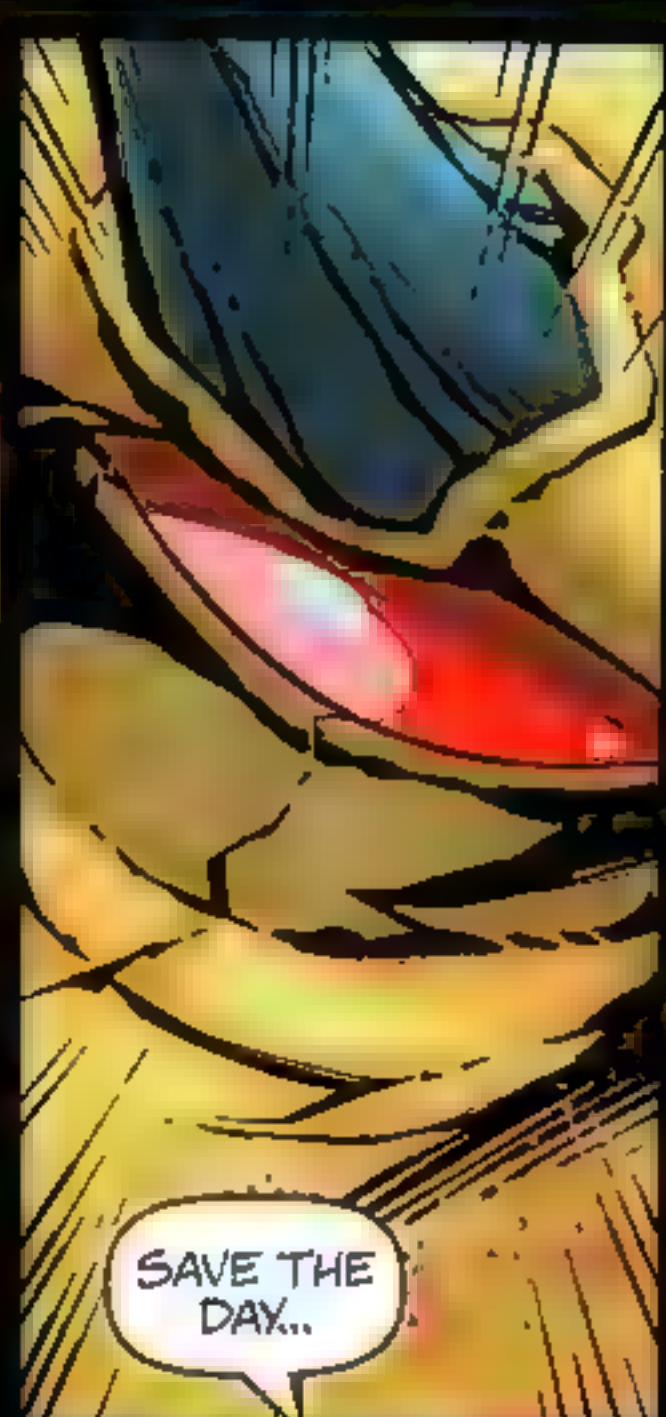
AND NOW, WE
CAN EITHER
CHOOSE TO DIE
LIKE THIS, OR...

GET THE
HELL OUTTA
HERE...

SURVIVE...



RESCUE
THEO...



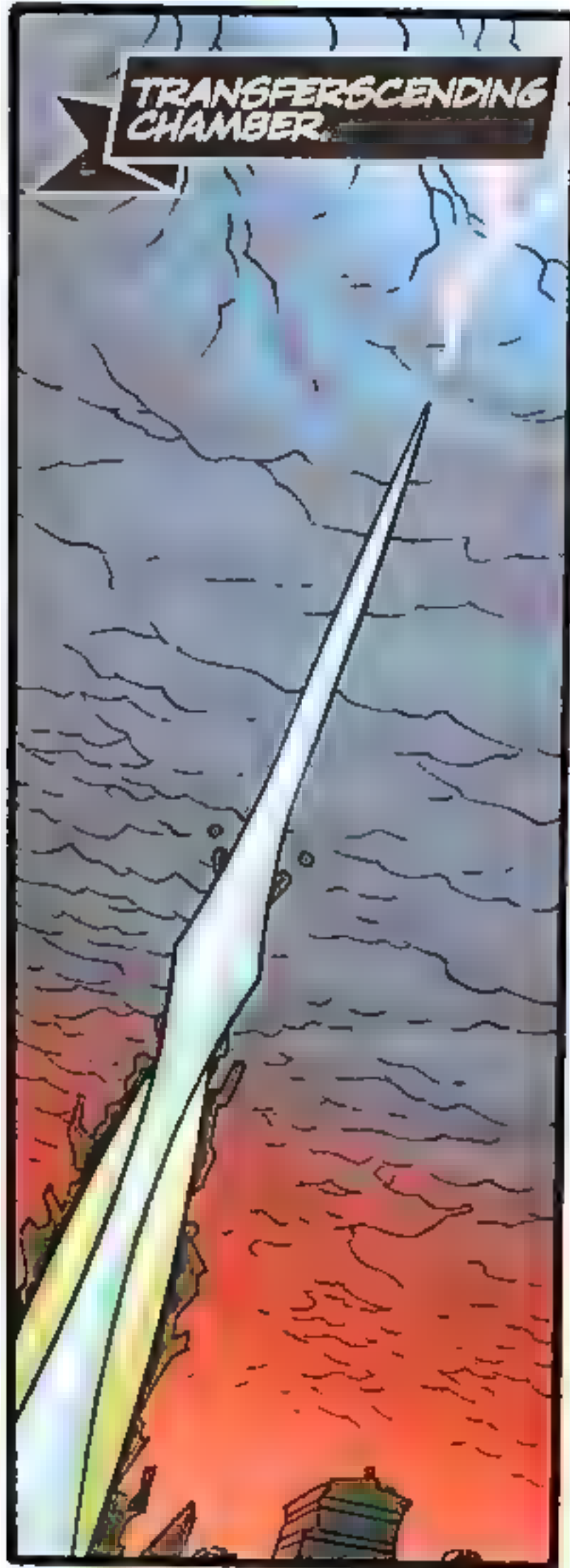
SAVE THE
DAY...



AND LET THAT
BACKSTABBING BITCH
KNOW SHE JUST
MESSED WITH THE
WRONG NEFS!!

SO GRAB
SOME FUR AND
HOLD ON TIGHT! WE
HAVE A HOT DATE
AWAITING!

HOT! HOT!
HOT!



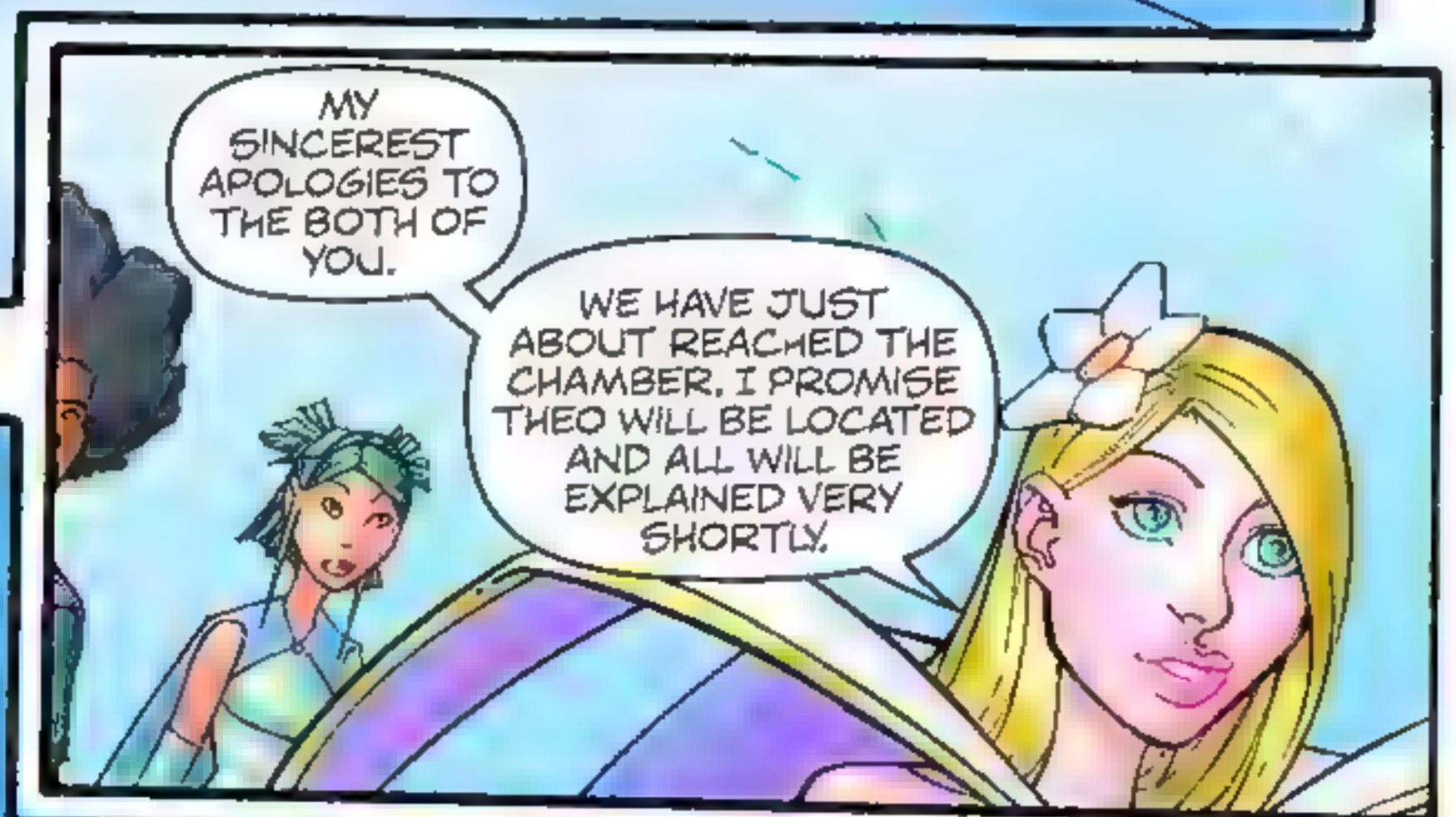
TRANSFERSCENDING
CHAMBER.



NOW PLEASE
DON'T TAKE THIS
THE WRONG WAY,
BECAUSE I'M MORE
THAN GRATEFUL TO
BE HEADING
HOME...

BUT I'M
CONCERNED
WE HAVEN'T FOUND
THEO, AND WE *STILL*
HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD
JUST *WHERE* WE
ARE.

YEAH,
JUST WHERE WE
BEEN HANGIN'
ANYWAYS?

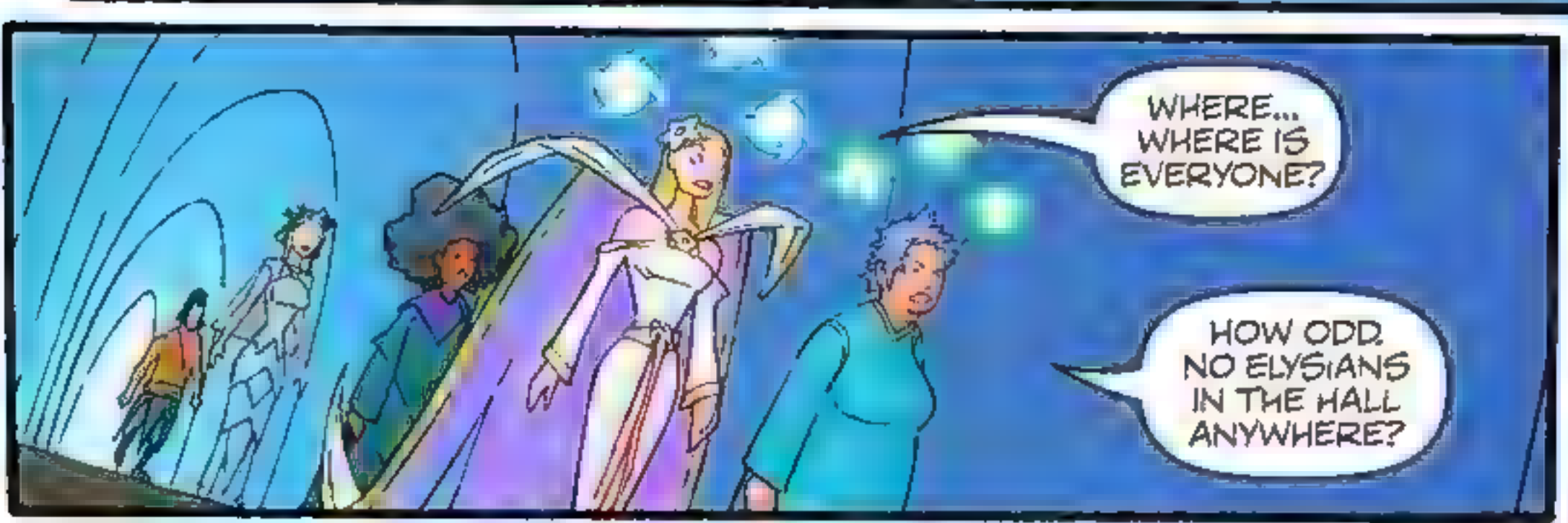


MY
SINCEREST
APOLOGIES TO
THE BOTH OF
YOU.

WE HAVE JUST
ABOUT REACHED THE
CHAMBER. I PROMISE
THEO WILL BE LOCATED
AND ALL WILL BE
EXPLAINED VERY
SHORTLY.



COOL THAT.
I'VE HAD MORE
THAN ENOUGH OF
THIS TWILIGHT
ZONE.



WHERE...
WHERE IS
EVERYONE?

HOW ODD.
NO ELYSIANS
IN THE HALL
ANYWHERE?

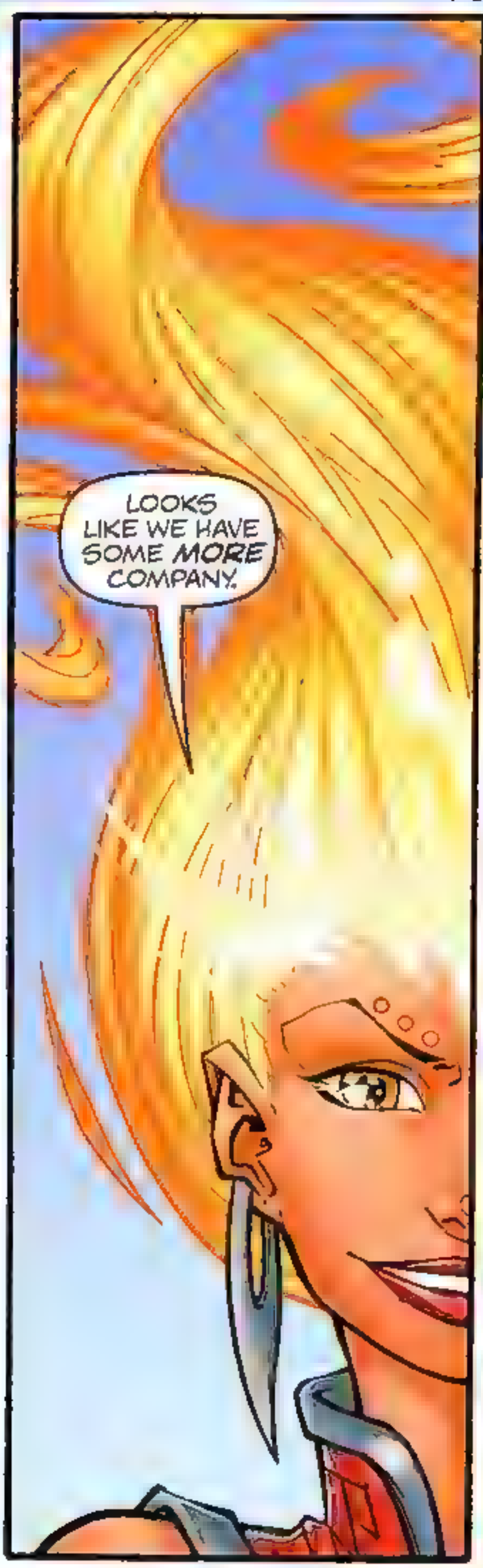


PERHAPS
THEY'RE IN THE
MAIN CHAMBER
AREA RIGHT
THROUGH--

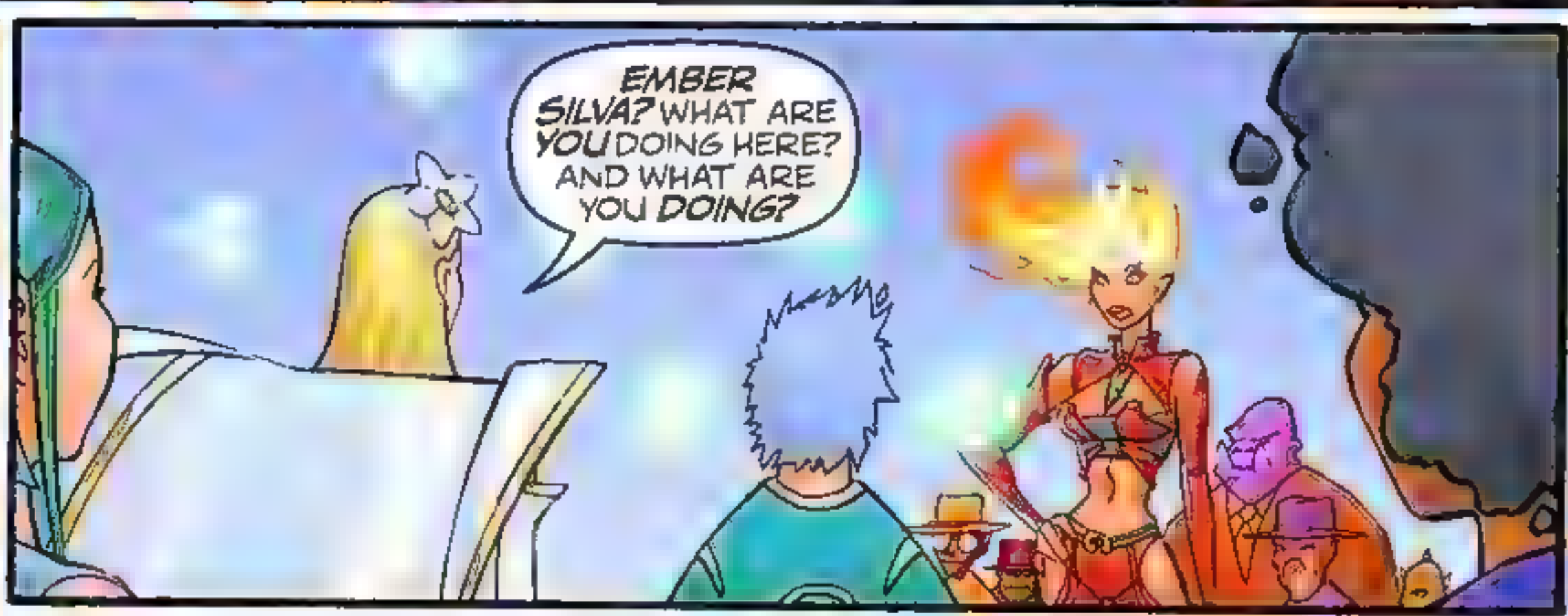


OH MY!

WELL...



LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE SOME MORE COMPANY.



EMBER SILVA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



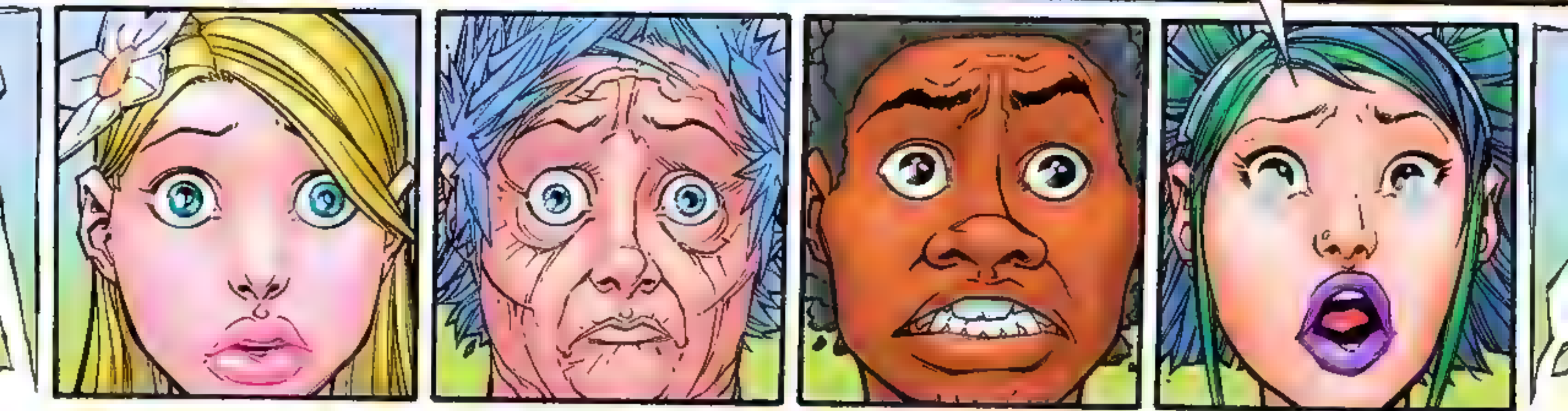
SECURING MY FUTURE.

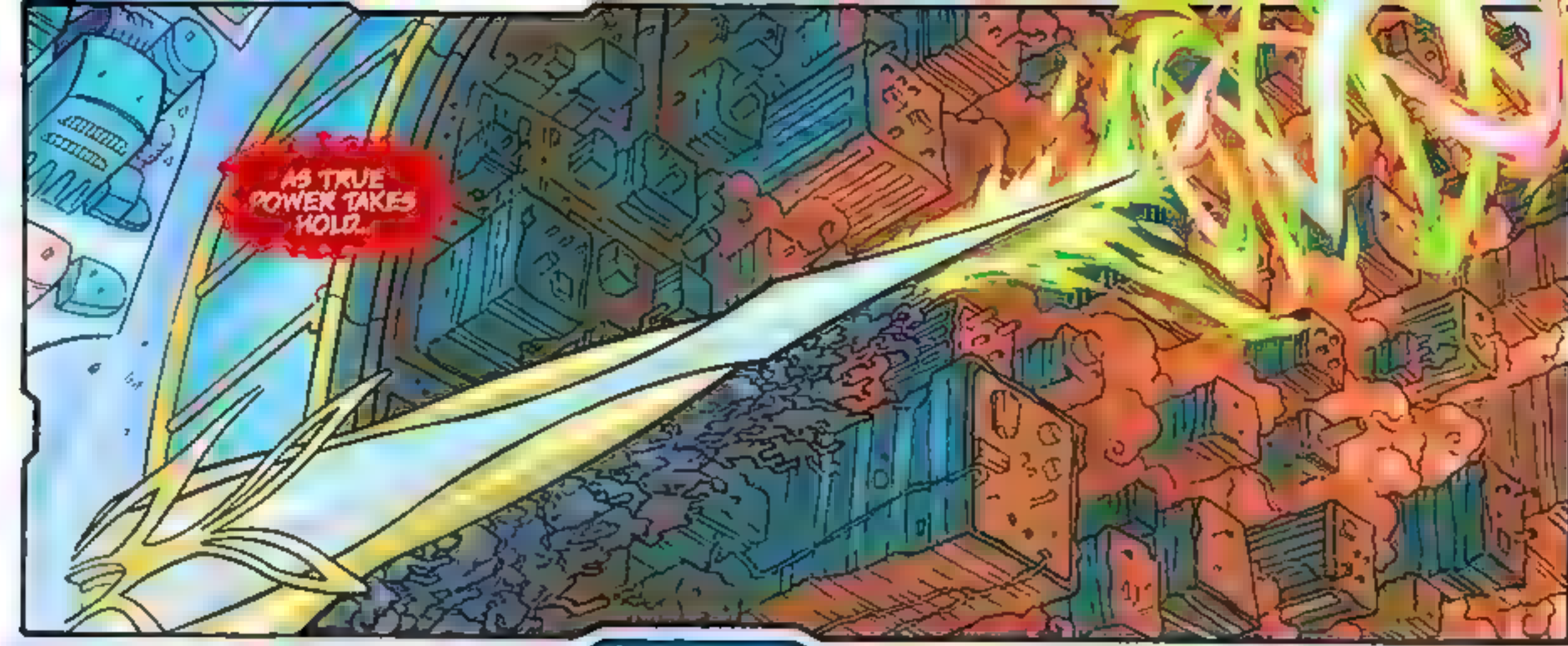
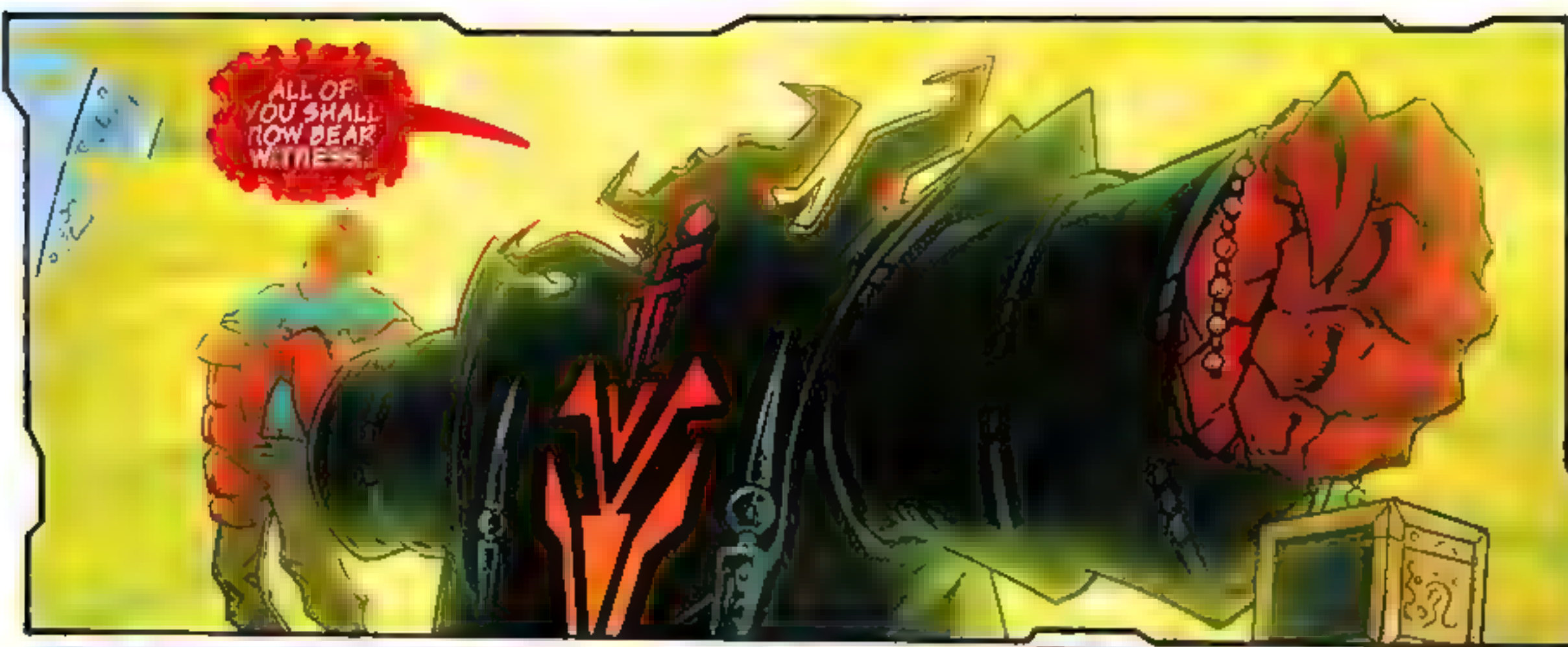
WAIT, LET ME CORRECT THAT. I'M ACTUALLY IMPROVING ALL OF OUR FUTURES.



BUT, REGRETTABLY FOR YOU...









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Vol. 1

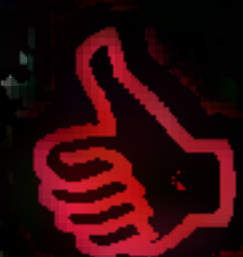
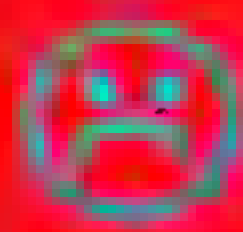
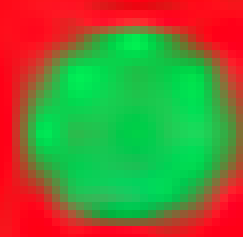
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Letters:

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VOLUME ONE ISSUE **EIGHT** OF EIGHT

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THINK YOU'RE HAVING
A BAD DAY? LET ME
LAY THIS ON YA...

... OF WHICH
PRESIDENT OBAMA
HAD THIS TO
SAY.

LIVE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

AMERICA MUST
NOT IGNORE THE THREAT
GATHERING AGAINST US.
FACING CLEAR EVIDENCE OF
PERIL, WE CANNOT WAIT FOR THE
FINAL PROOF... OR FOR THESE
LITTLE BUGGERS TO GET OFF
MY SHOULDER.

WEB WORLD

NEWS

BREAKING NEWS

I'M JUST YOUR AVERAGE TEENAGER
FACING THE DAY-TO-DAY CHALLENGES
ADOLESCENCE BRINGS, OR SO I
THOUGHT, BUT THAT'S THE KICKER;
THEY'RE NOT MY THOUGHTS.

WELL, SORT OF.

<...LOCAL JAPANESE
AUTHORITIES ARE STILL
UNDETERMINED IF THIS IS A
HOAX OR AN ELABORATE
COMPUTER GENERATED PRANK
AS SOME ROGUE SONY
PROGRAMMERS OUT OF
TOKYO CLAIM.>

LIVE

<AH!!
LITTLE GOJIRA
EVERYWHERE!!
RUN!!!>

25 ET

GNN

TRANSLATED FROM
JAPANESE

COME TO FIND OUT
OUR CONSCIENCE,
HUMAN BEINGS'
CONSCIENCES, ARE
NOT QUITE OUR OWN.

THERE'S THESE TWO RACES FROM,
GET THIS, ANOTHER STINKIN' PLANET,
THAT ARE ASSIGNED TO US AT BIRTH
TO HELP GUIDE US THROUGH LIFE.
THEY SWAY OUR EMOTIONS AND TAKE
PART IN EVERY DECISION WE MAKE.

ABERRATIONS?
MANIFESTATIONS?
HOW CAN THIS BE,
DOCTOR?

ZE MIND IZ ZE
MOZT POWERFUL
VEAPON KNOWN
TU MAN.

OUR
IMAGINATION HAZ
NO LIMITZ, AND ZE
ETERNAL MYZTERY
OF ZE WORLD IZ
INCOMPRE-
HENZIBLE.

BBC WORLD
NEWS UPDATE

ON THE RECORD

Psychologist Anslem Wohlinsky
Cambridge University

OF COURSE NO ONE
EVER REALLY KNEW
ABOUT THIS...

...WITH THE
APPEARANCE OF
THESE CREATURES
CAUSING MASS HYSTERIA
AND UNTOLD DAMAGE
FROM HUMAN ERROR
AS SEEN HERE.

LIVE

STATEN ISLAND

MB
NSC

4:26p ET

UNTIL NOW

BREAKING NEWS

FOREST FIRES / GAS PRICES UP / FOUND BODY
MSR -0.24 BOW +3.4 BATS -1.55

LIVE: SANTA MONICA, CA

...AS MANY
HAVE FLOCKED
TO THEIR LOCAL
CHURCHES FOR
SUPPORT.

WHETHER THIS
IS THE WORK OF
GOD OR SOMETHING
ELSE, EVERYONE JUST
WANTS TO KNOW WHAT
IN THE WORLD IS
GOING ON?

AND FOR SOME REASON I'M
STILL NOT QUITE SURE OF,
YOURS TRULY IS THE MAIN
REASON ALL OF THIS STUFF
HAS COME TO LIGHT.

IN FACT, ME AND MY FRIENDS
HAVE TAKEN AN UNEXPECTED
JOURNEY TO THIS OTHER
WORLD AND ARE NOW IN THE
MIDDLE OF A WAR BETWEEN
SOME CRAZY POWER
MONGER AND THE REST OF
THE PLANET.

APPARENTLY HE'S TRYING TO
TAKE OVER THE EARTH TOO.
THERE'S A BUNCH OF PEOPLE
TRYING TO STOP HIM...

BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M IN
NO POSITION TO HELP
OUT. THIS SUCKS.

THIS IS
ABSOLUTE
PERFECTION!



WITHIN A SHORT
MATTER OF TIME, OUR
NEFARIAN BRETHREN WILL
OVERCOME THEIR ELYSIAN
COUNTERPARTS ON EARTH.
OUR INFLUENCE WILL BE
UNDENIABLE.

AND
I WILL BE A
GOD.



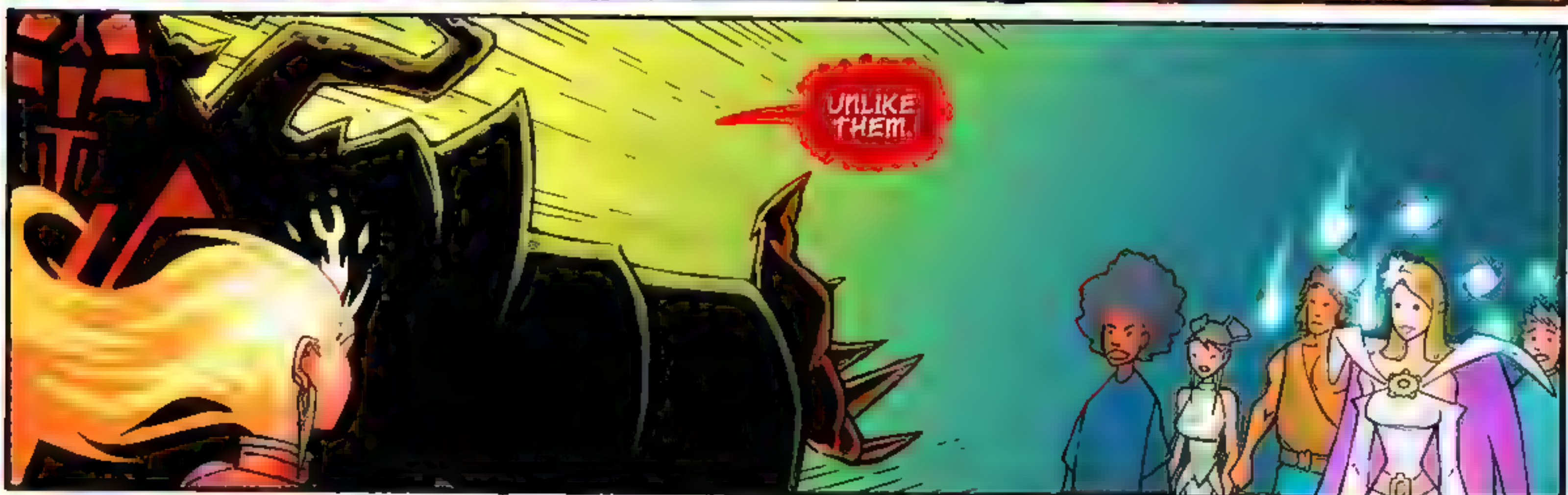
WE
WILL BE
GODS.

AND TOGETHER,
WE WILL REVEL IN
OUR TRIUMPH OVER
THEIR PATHETIC
PLANET.



TOGETHER?
TSK TSK, EMBER.
THIS IS MY TRIUMPH.
MINE AND MINE
ALONE.

YOU HAVE
MERELY BEEN AN
ACCESSORY TO MY
ENDEAVOR AND FOR
YOUR AID, I WILL
ALLOW YOU TO
LIVE.



UNLIKE
THEM.



YOU WILL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT!

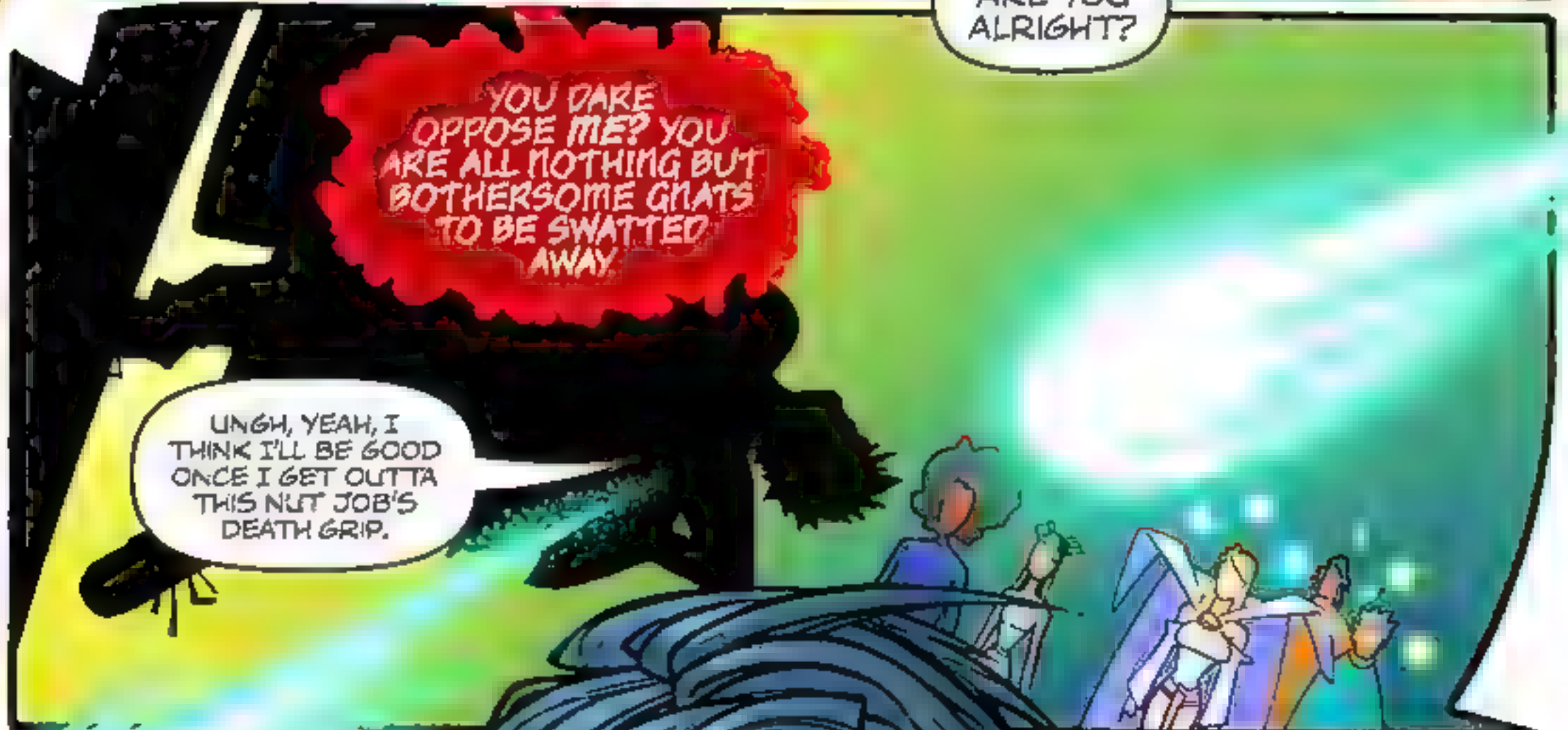
LET GO OF YOUNG THEO AND CEASE THIS MOST TROUBLING SITUATION YOU HAVE CAUSED.

NOW!!



YEAH MAN, LIKE THE GAL SAYS, LET GO OF OUR FRIEND. WHAT'D HE EVER DO TO YOU?

THEO, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?



YOU DARE OPPOSE ME? YOU ARE ALL NOTHING BUT BOTHERSOME GNATS TO BE SWATTED AWAY.

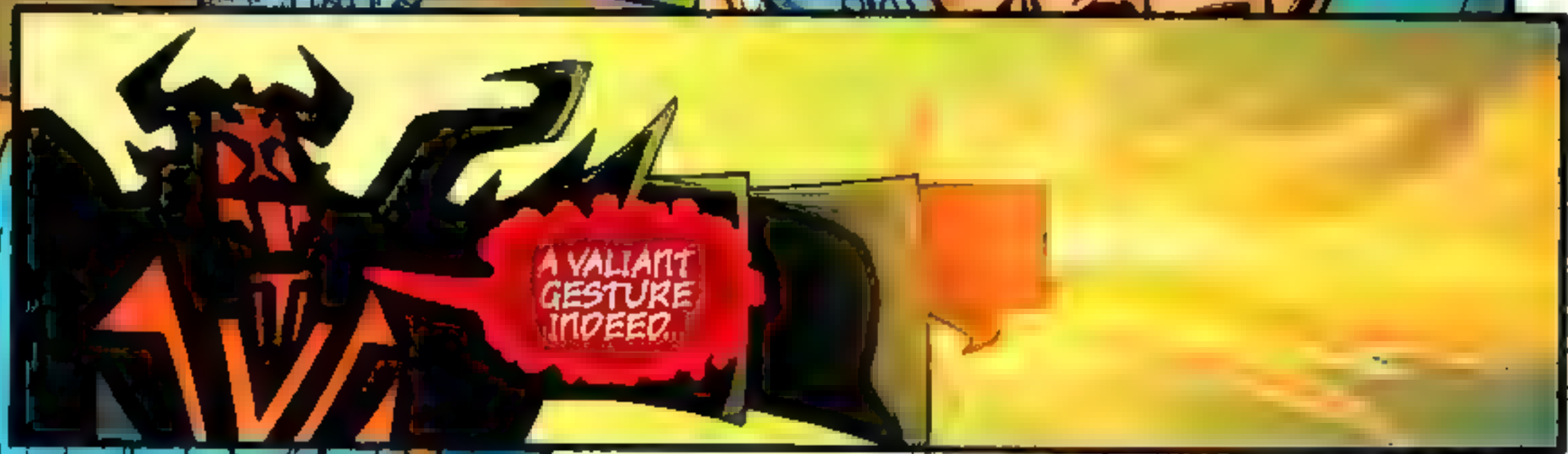
UNGH, YEAH, I THINK I'LL BE GOOD ONCE I GET OUTTA THIS NUT JOB'S DEATH GRIP.



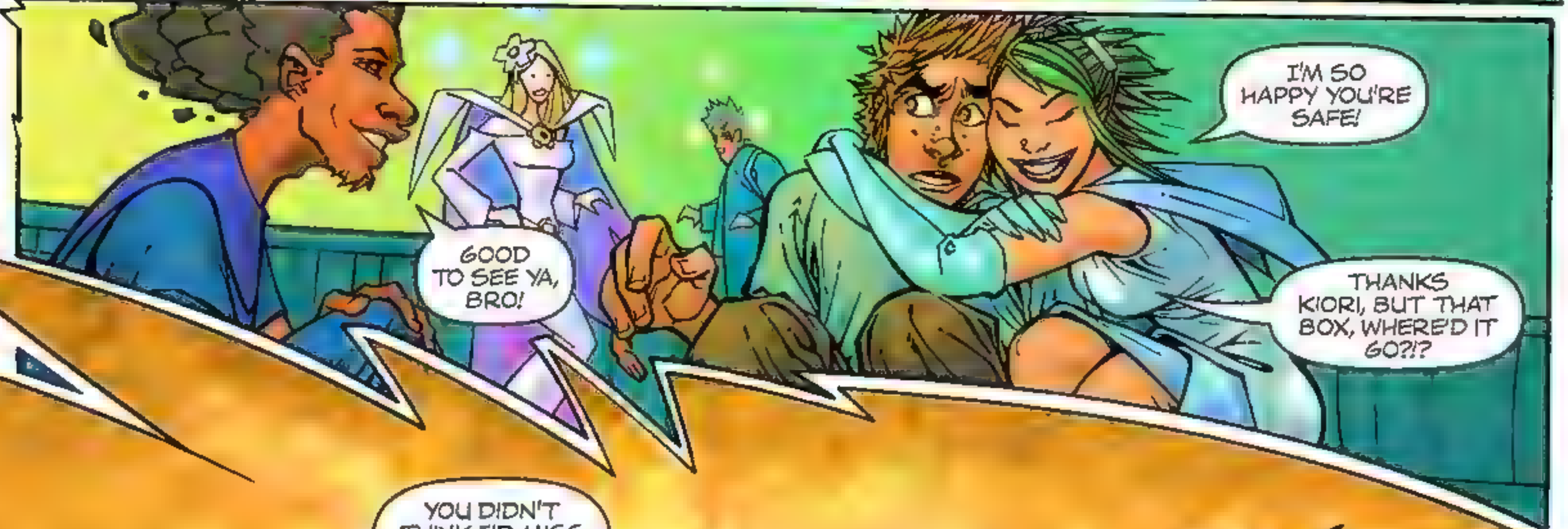
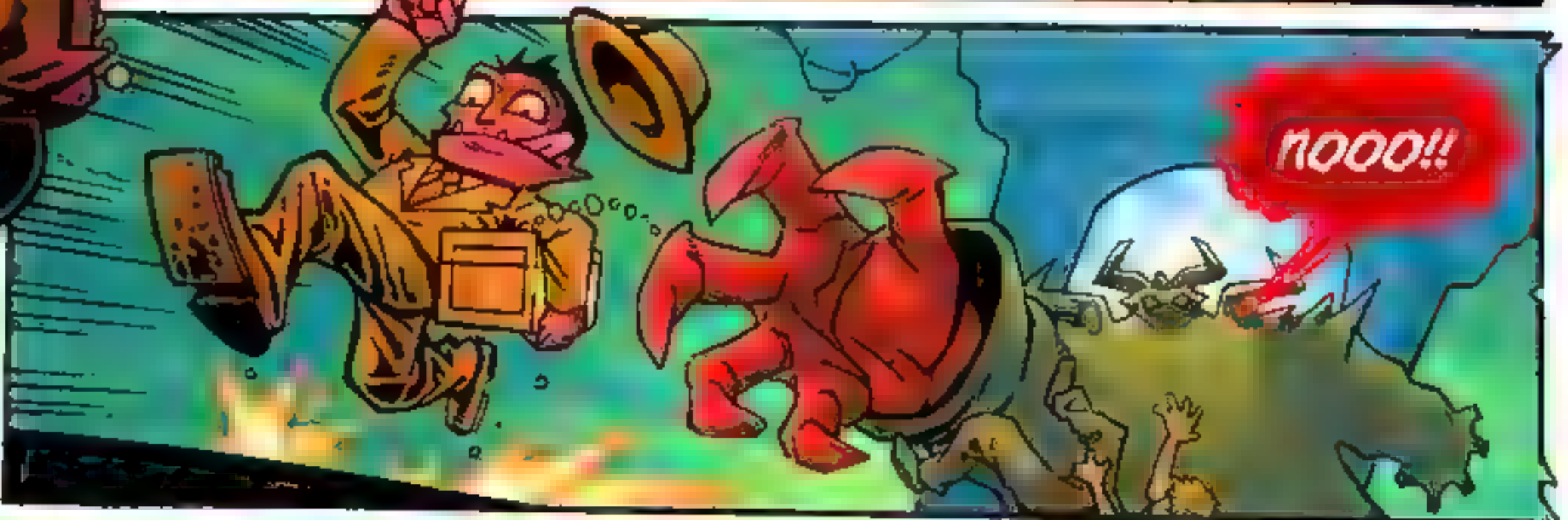
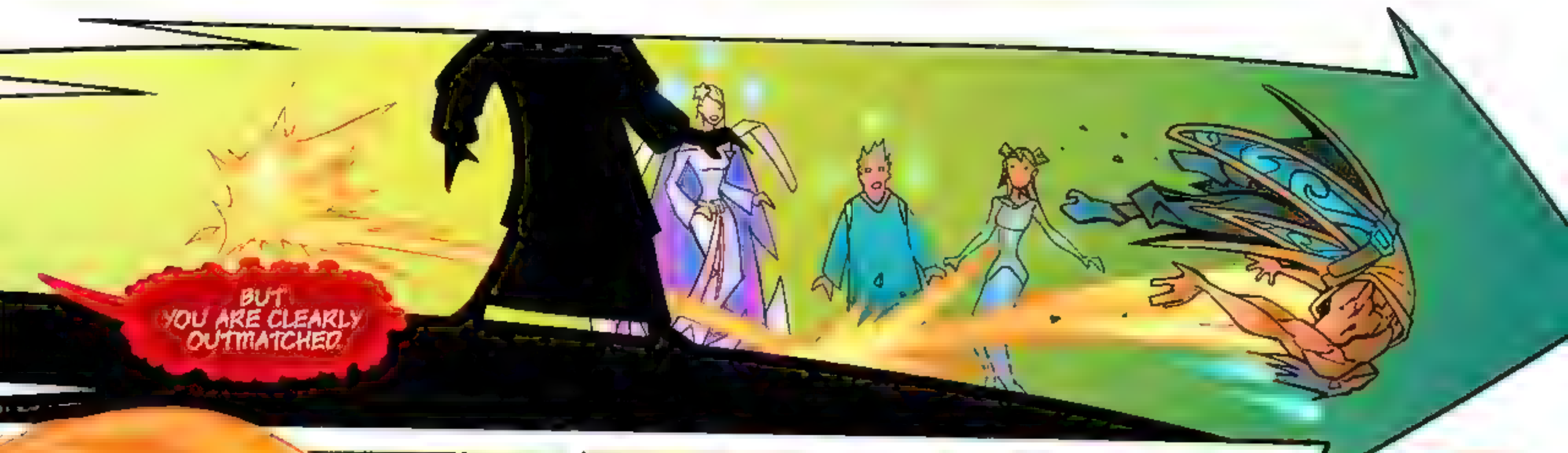
RELEASE THE BOY!

RELINQUISH THE BOX OF WHICH YOU HOLD, AND SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE ELYSIAN AUTHORITIES...

OR I WILL TAKE YOU DOWN!



A VALIANT GESTURE INDEED.



SOMEWHERE BENEATH PERSPECTA.

THIS DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.

YOU SURE WE'RE GOING THE RIGHT WAY?

YEAH. JUST C'MON. I KNOW THIS IS THE WAY.

UNGGH, HOLD UP

THIS BITES. AND I'VE BEEN WORKING OUT. CAN'T WE FIND A BIGGER PIPE TO CRAWL THROUGH?

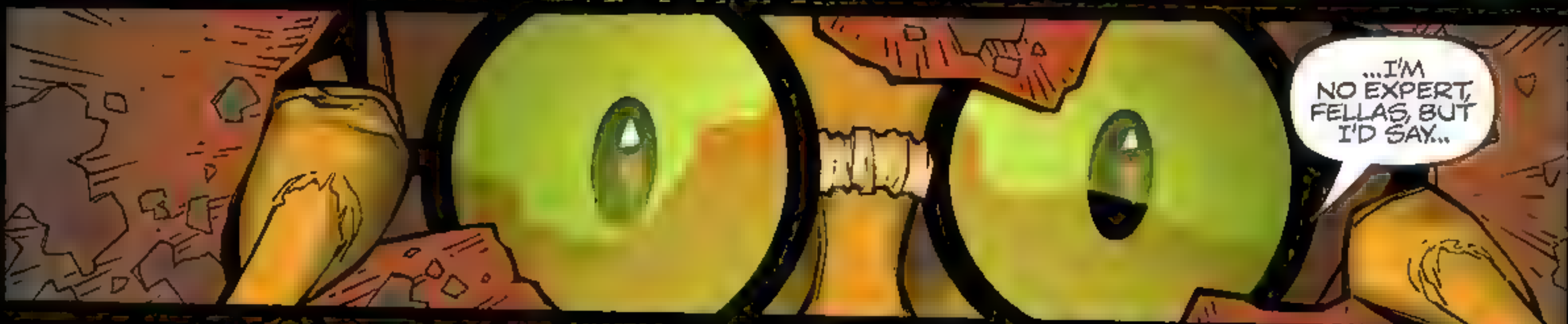
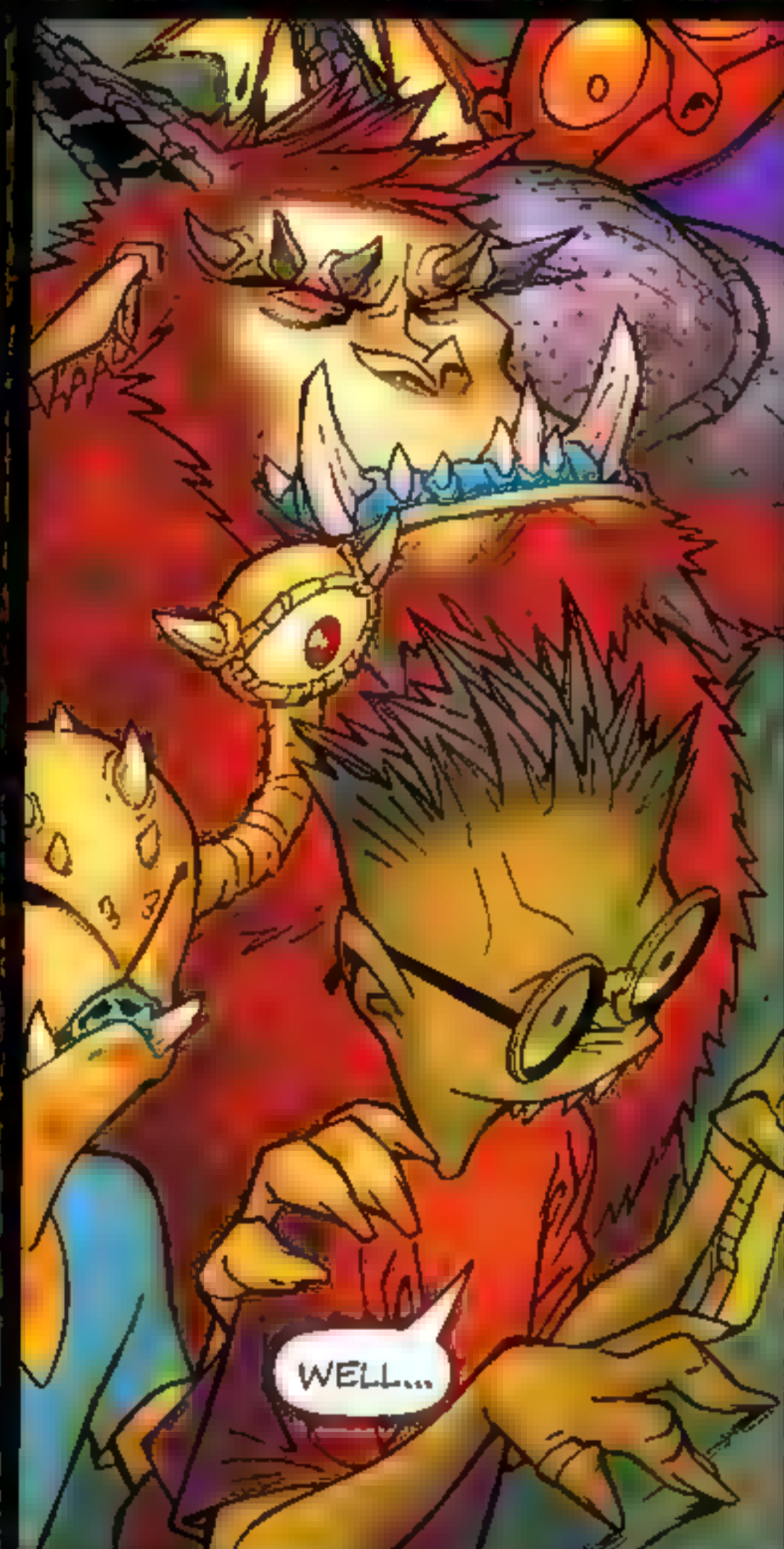
UMMPH. THIS IS THE BEST I COULD...
URGH... FIND GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

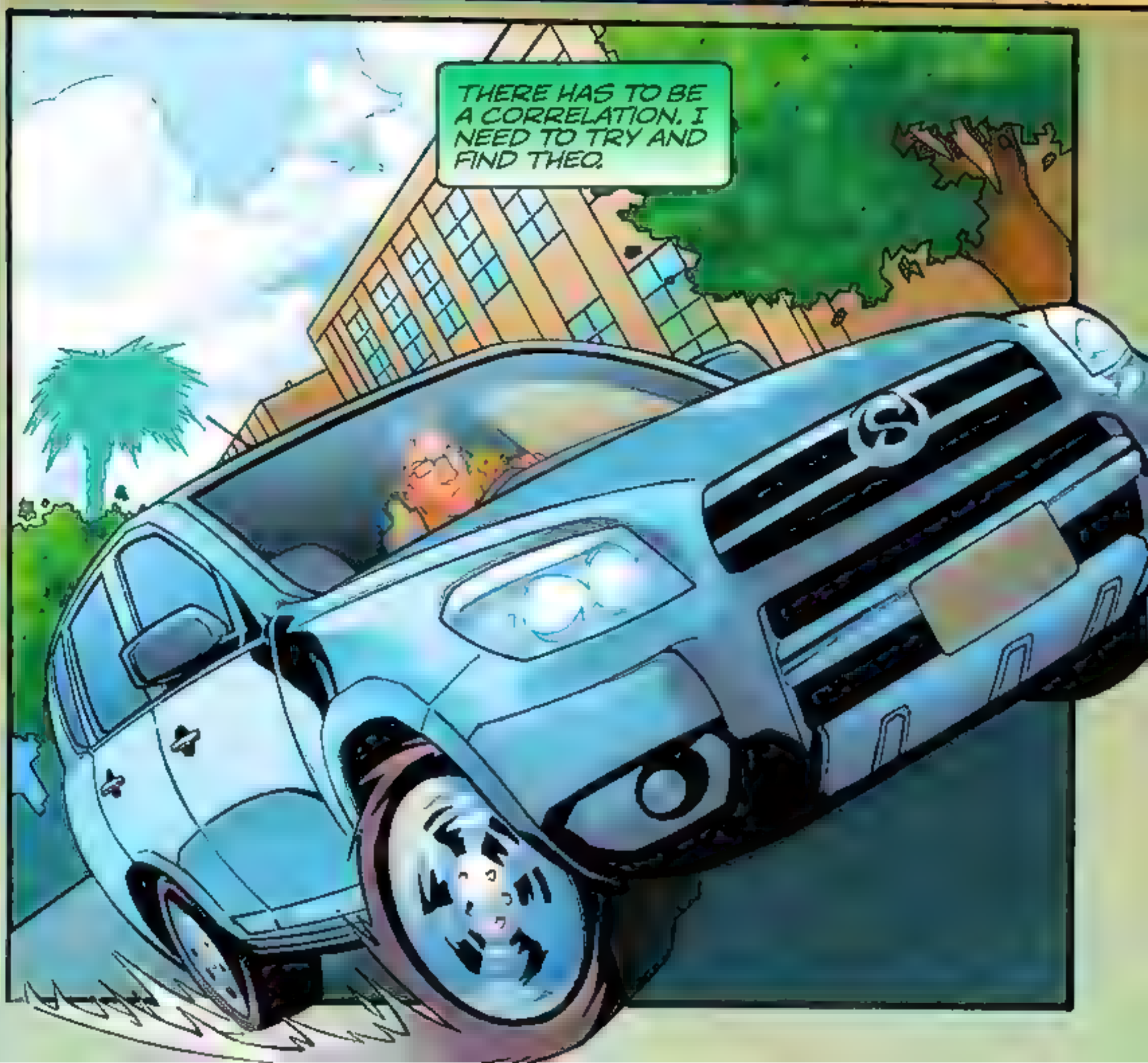
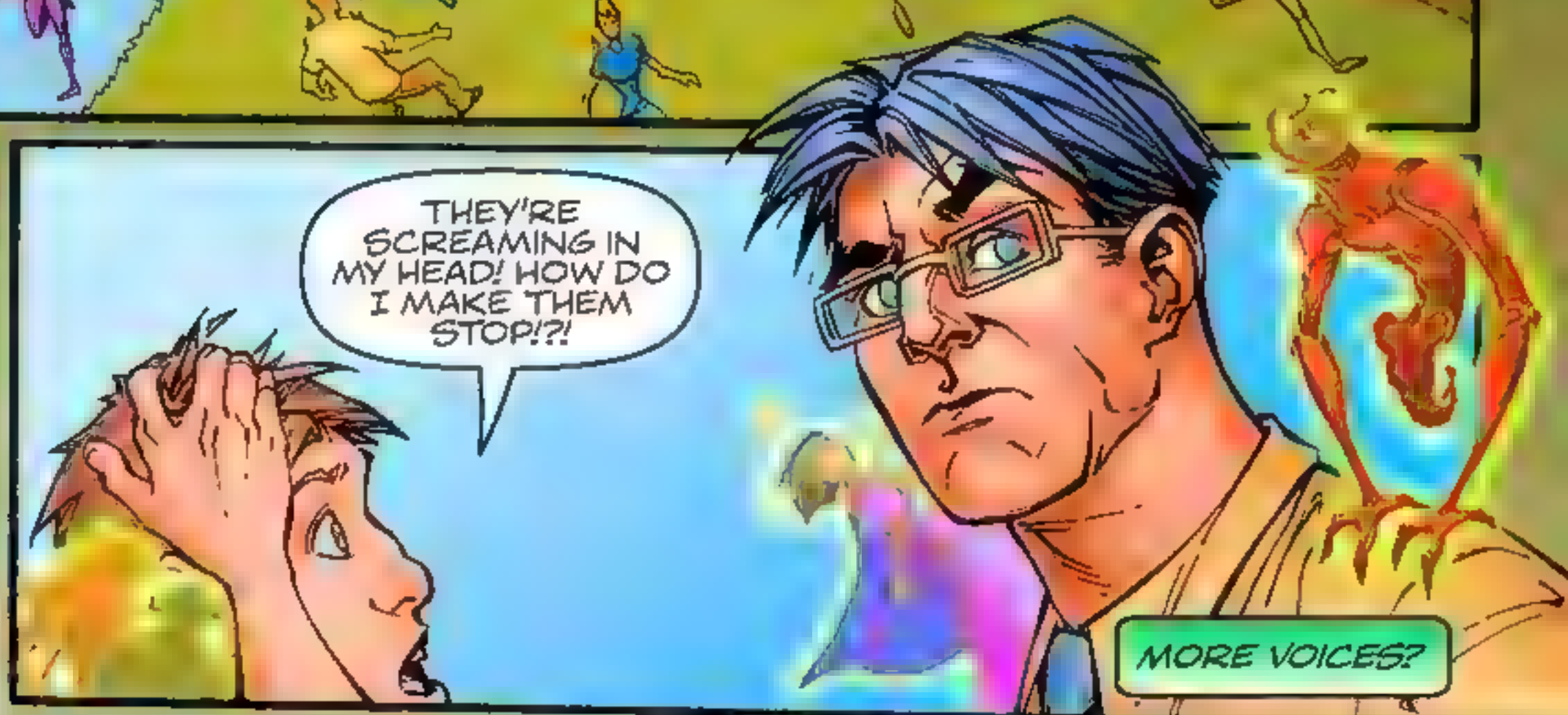
UNLESS YOU WANT TO KEEP... UNN...
DIGGING, THIS IS THE BEST WE GOT.

NOW LET'S MOVE IT!!

POP!

NOT ONE WORD.





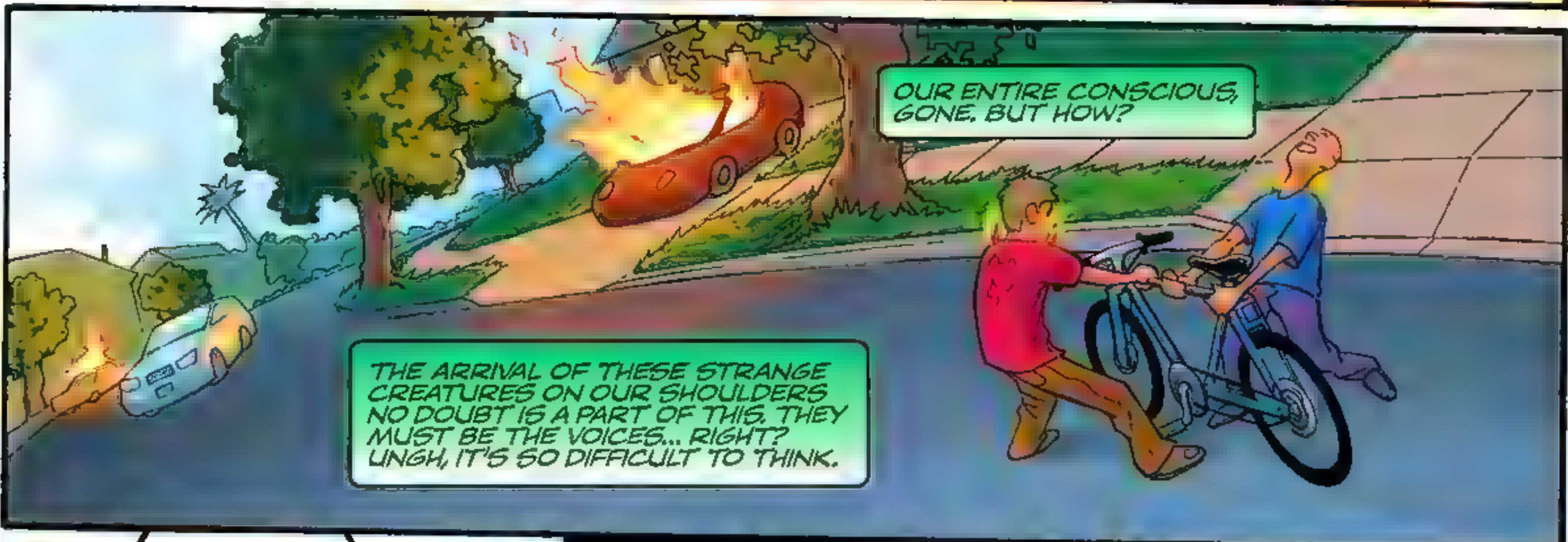


FIRST HIS BROTHER,
THEN THEO. NOW...
EVERYONE? ALL
HEARING THINGS?



THERE MUST BE AN
EXPLANATION, BUT
IT'S SO HARD TO STAY
FOCUSED IT TOOK ALL
OF THE STRENGTH I
HAD JUST TO DECIDE
TO TURN THE CAR
IGNITION ON. I CAN'T
MAKE UP MY MIND
ABOUT ANYTHING.

IT'S AS IF OUR MOST
BASIC HUMAN
COMPREHENSIONS
HAVE BEEN REMOVED.
NO MORE REASONING.
NO MORE CONTROL.



OUR ENTIRE CONSCIOUS,
GONE. BUT HOW?

THE ARRIVAL OF THESE STRANGE
CREATURES ON OUR SHOULDERS
NO DOUBT IS A PART OF THIS. THEY
MUST BE THE VOICES... RIGHT?
UGH, IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO THINK.



I MUST SPEAK
WITH THEO.

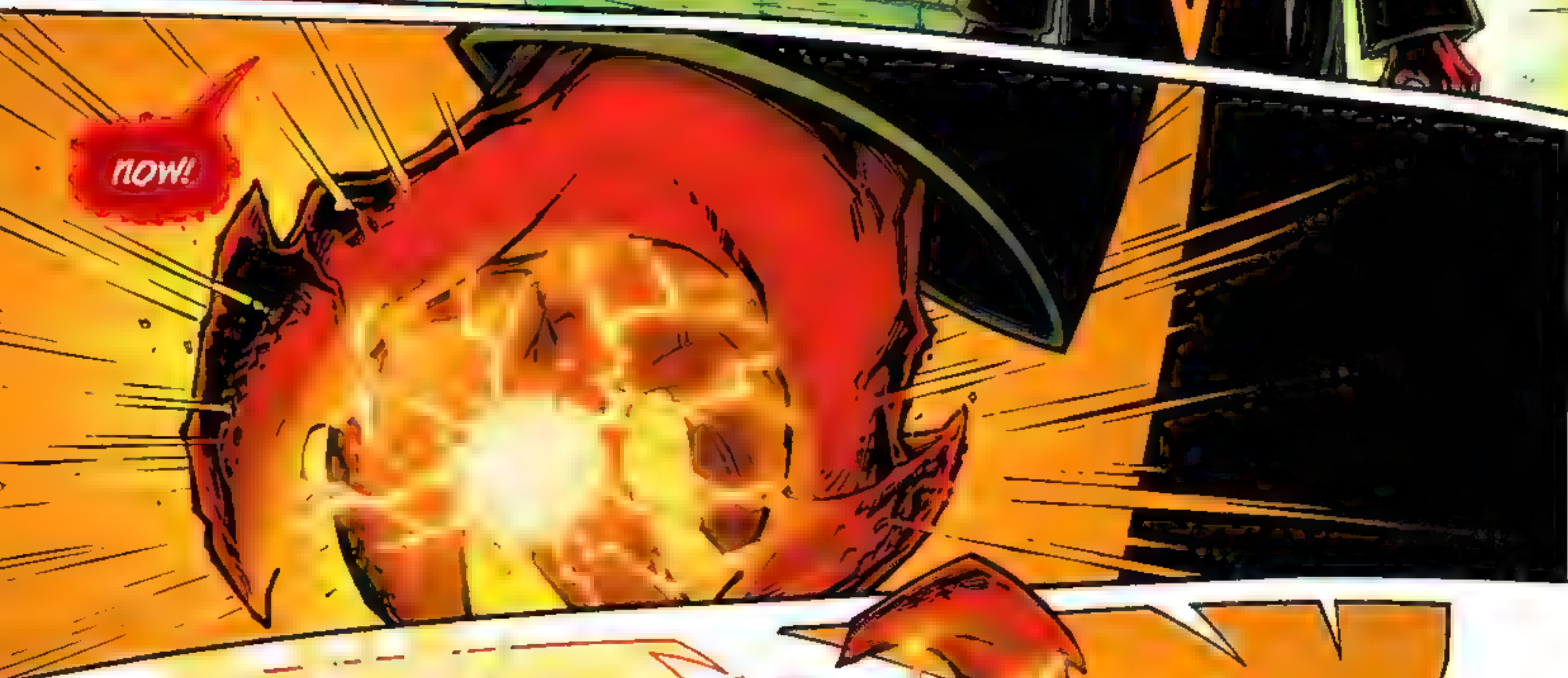
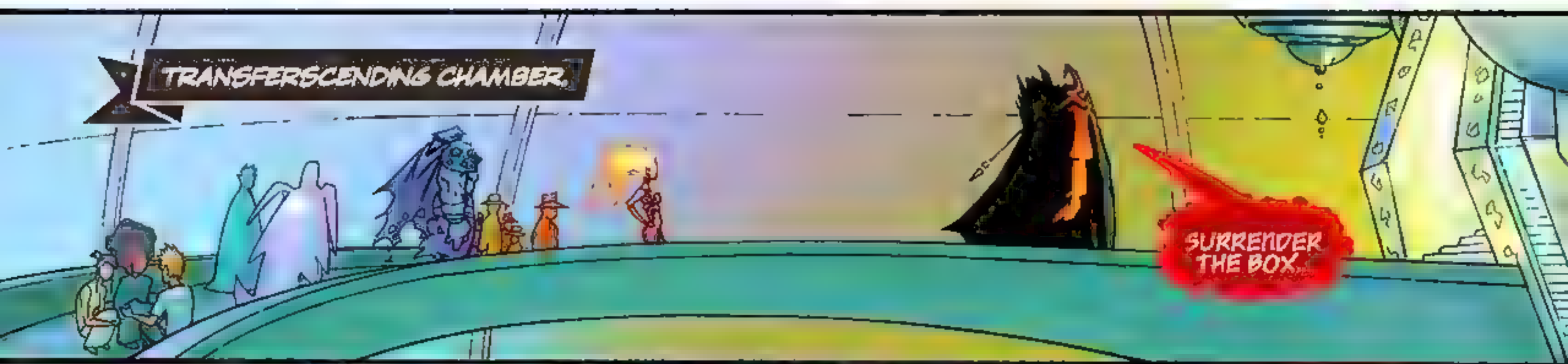
BY THE
DOOR...
THEO?

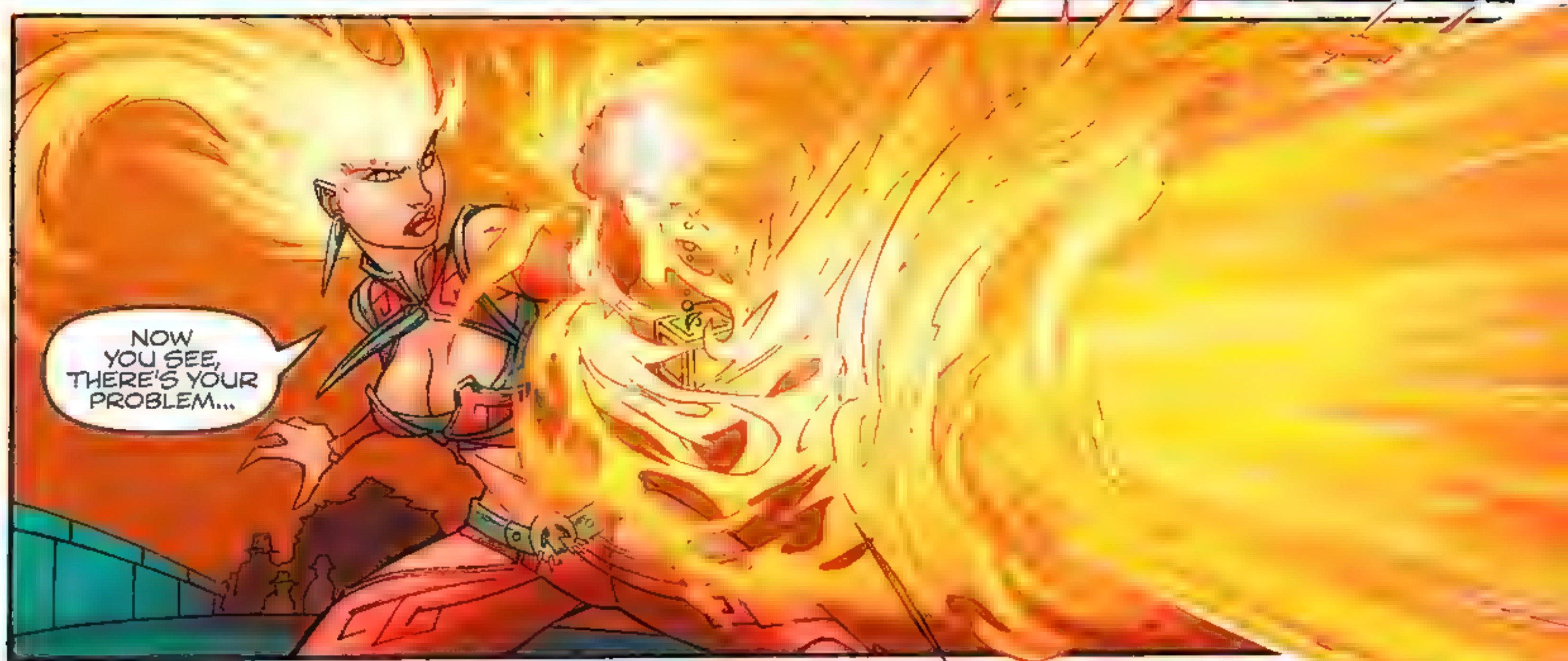


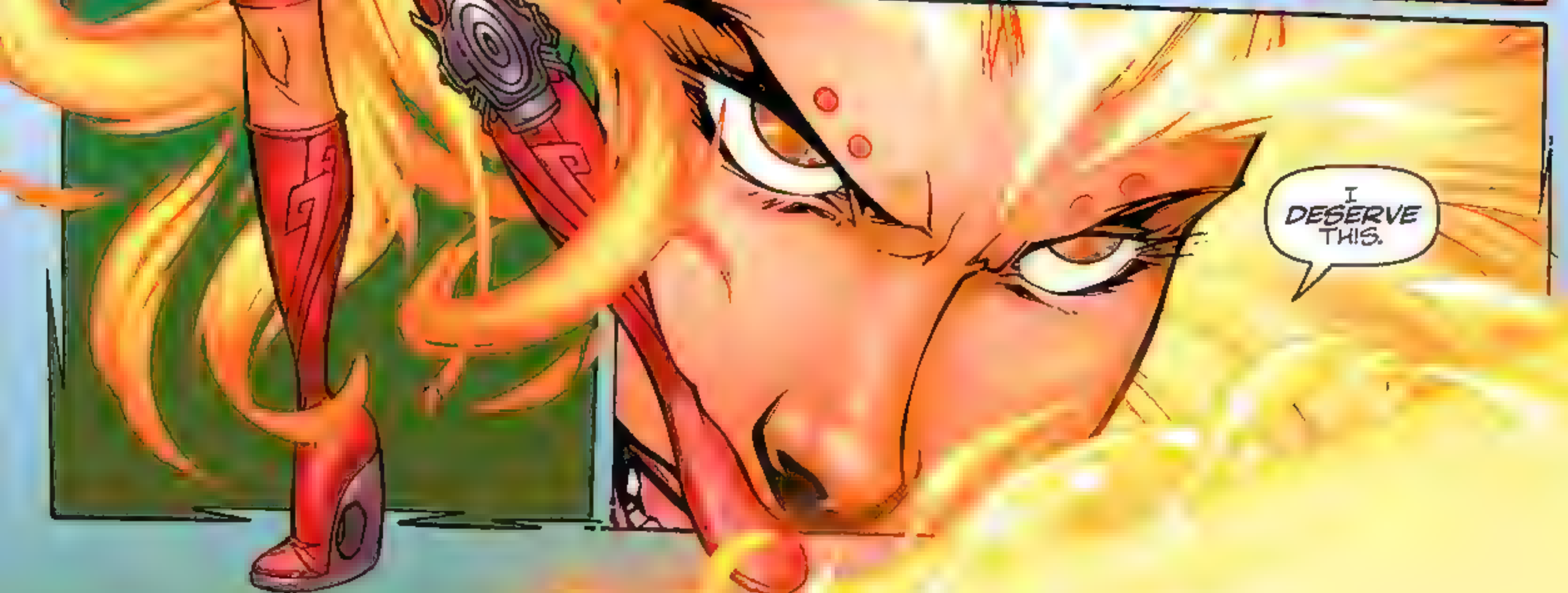
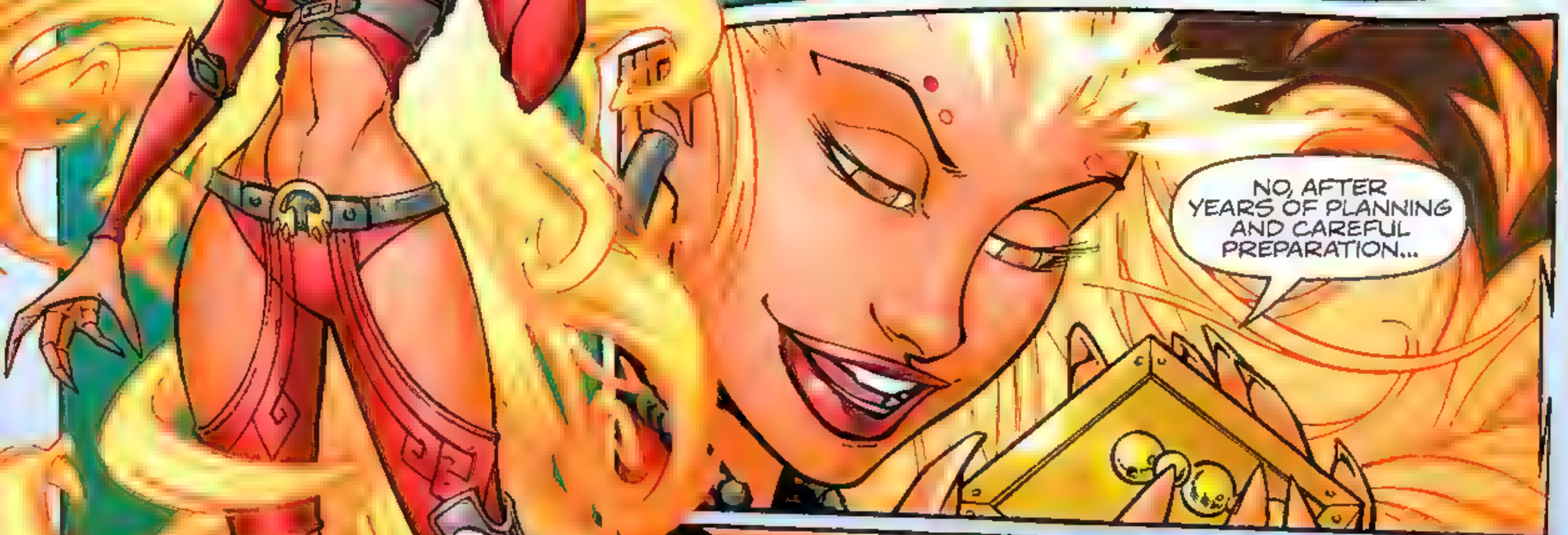
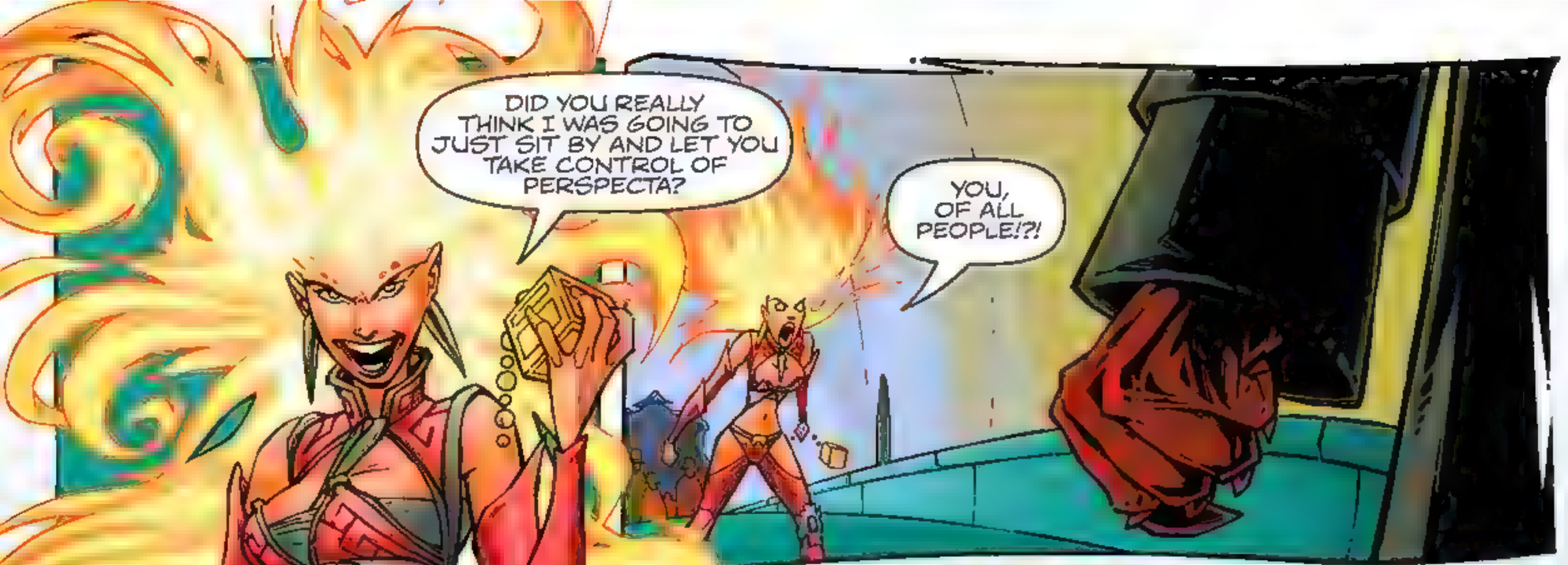
WHERE
IS THEODORE
LANGSTROM?!!

WHERE'S
MY
DAUGHTER?!?!?

UH OH.









WE'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO TRY AND HELP OUT.

YEAH, BUT THAT FIERY CHICA HAS HER LITTLE CRONIES PLAYIN' BACK UP.

DO YOU THINK WE CAN GET BY THEM?

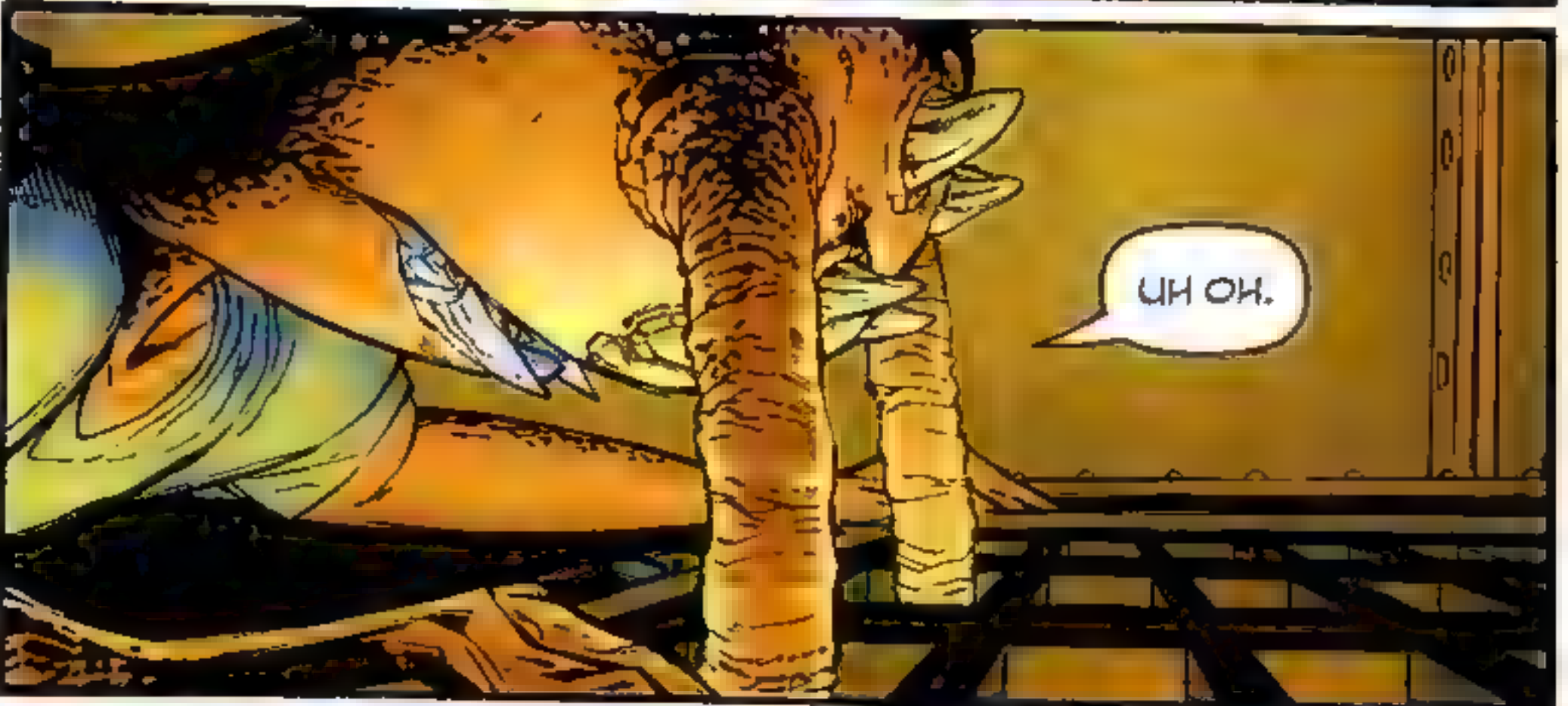
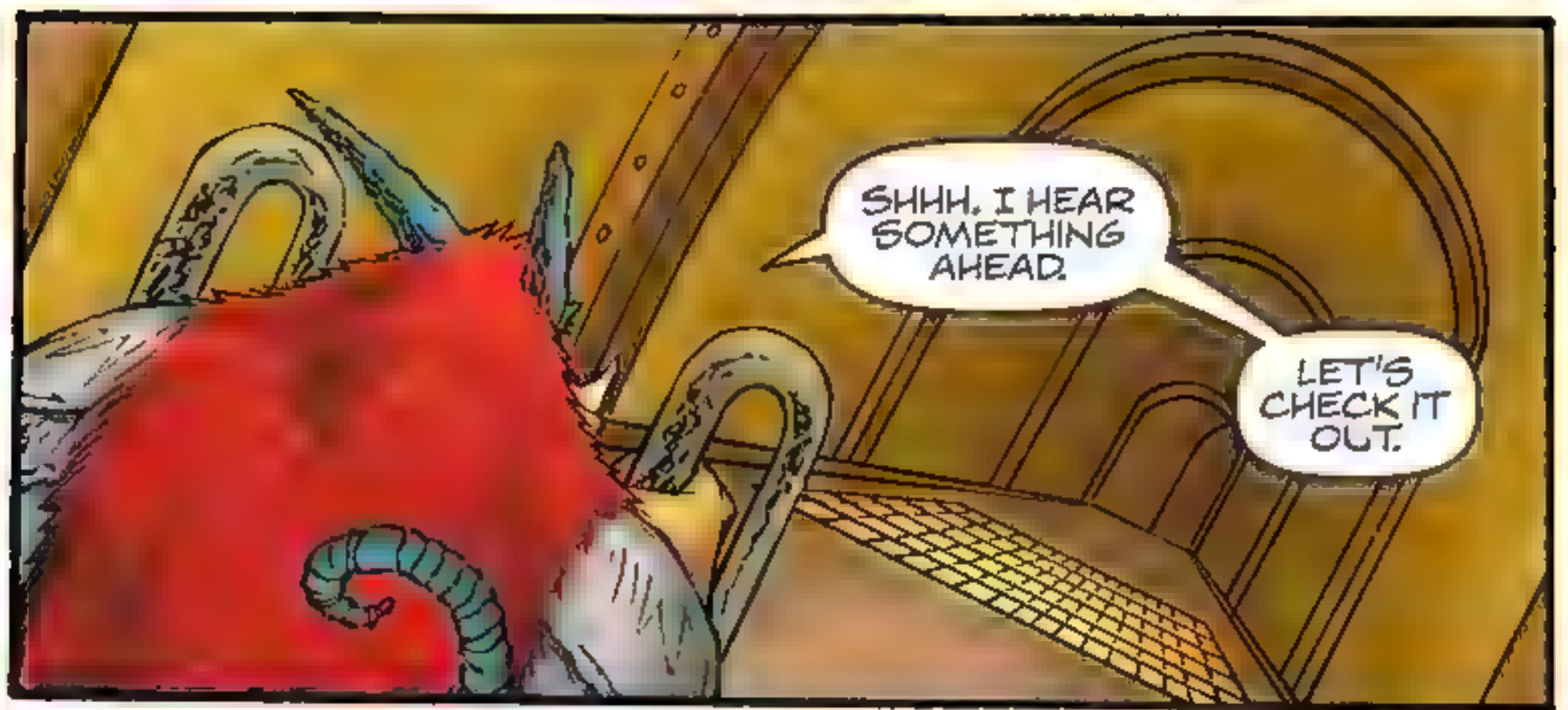
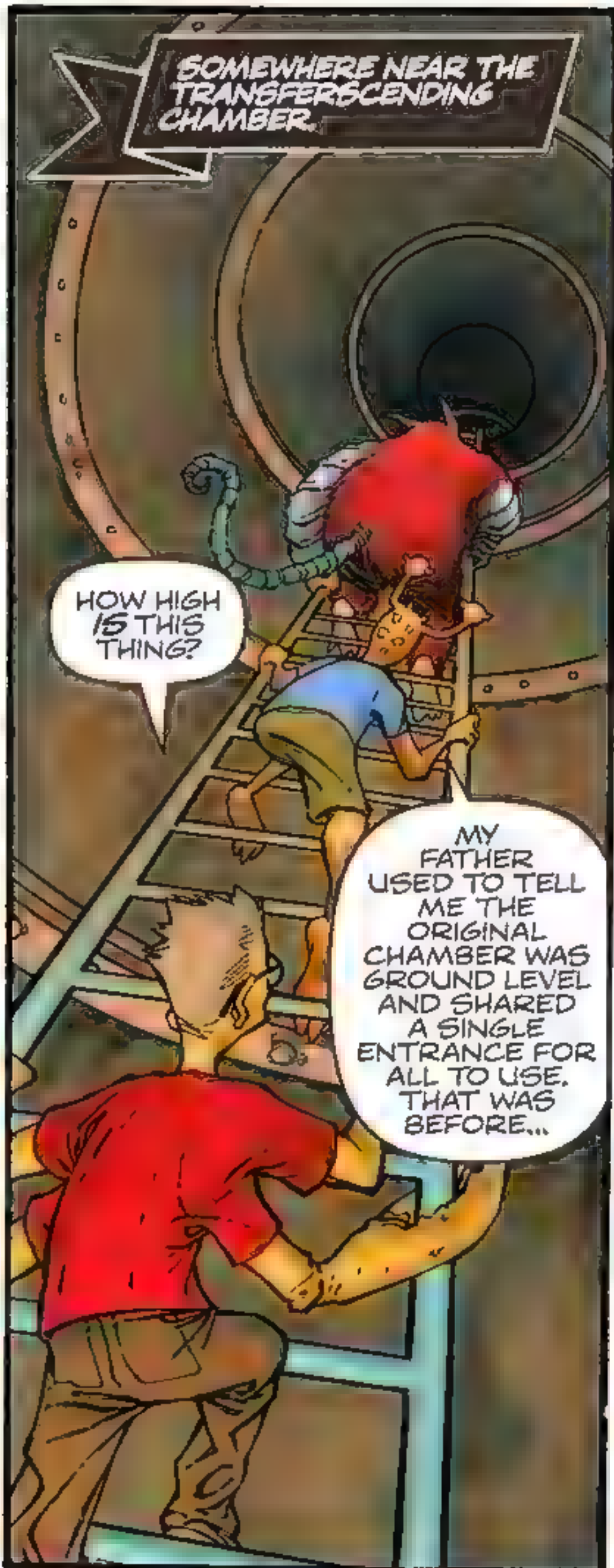
ME AND WALKER FOUGHT AGAINST THOSE THINGS BEFORE. EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE SMALL, THEY'RE PRETTY TOUGH. WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO... HEY! WHERE *IS* WALKER? AND WHERE'S CARRIE?!

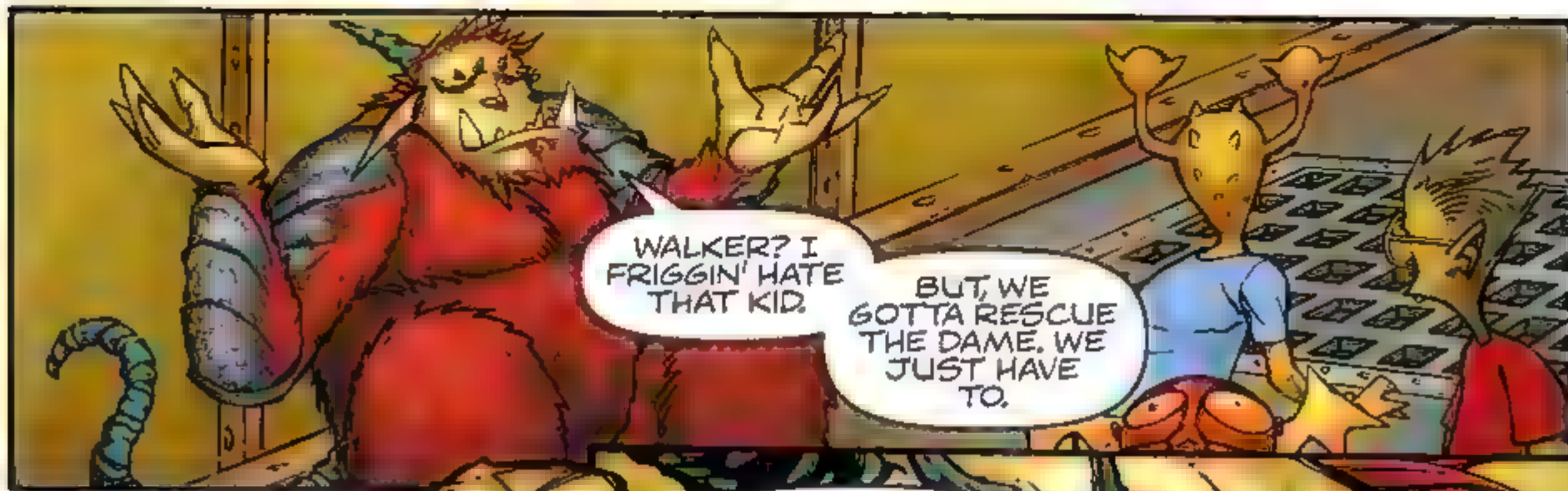
WHAF? THEM CATS ARE HERE TOO? DAMN. DID EVERYONE FROM OUR SCHOOL WIND UP WITH US HERE IN OZ?

WE WERE TOGETHER WHEN THE THREE OF US GOT TAKEN BY SOME OF THOSE BIGGER CREATURES. WE WERE WITH THE, UM, THE GUT FEELING, AND HE WAS TELLING ME THAT I'M... WELL, I'LL GO OVER THAT PART WITH YOU LATER. RIGHT NOW...

LET'S FIGURE OUT HOW WE STOP THESE GUYS.







WALKER? I
FRIGGIN' HATE
THAT KID.

BUT, WE
GOTTA RESCUE
THE DAME. WE
JUST HAVE
TO.

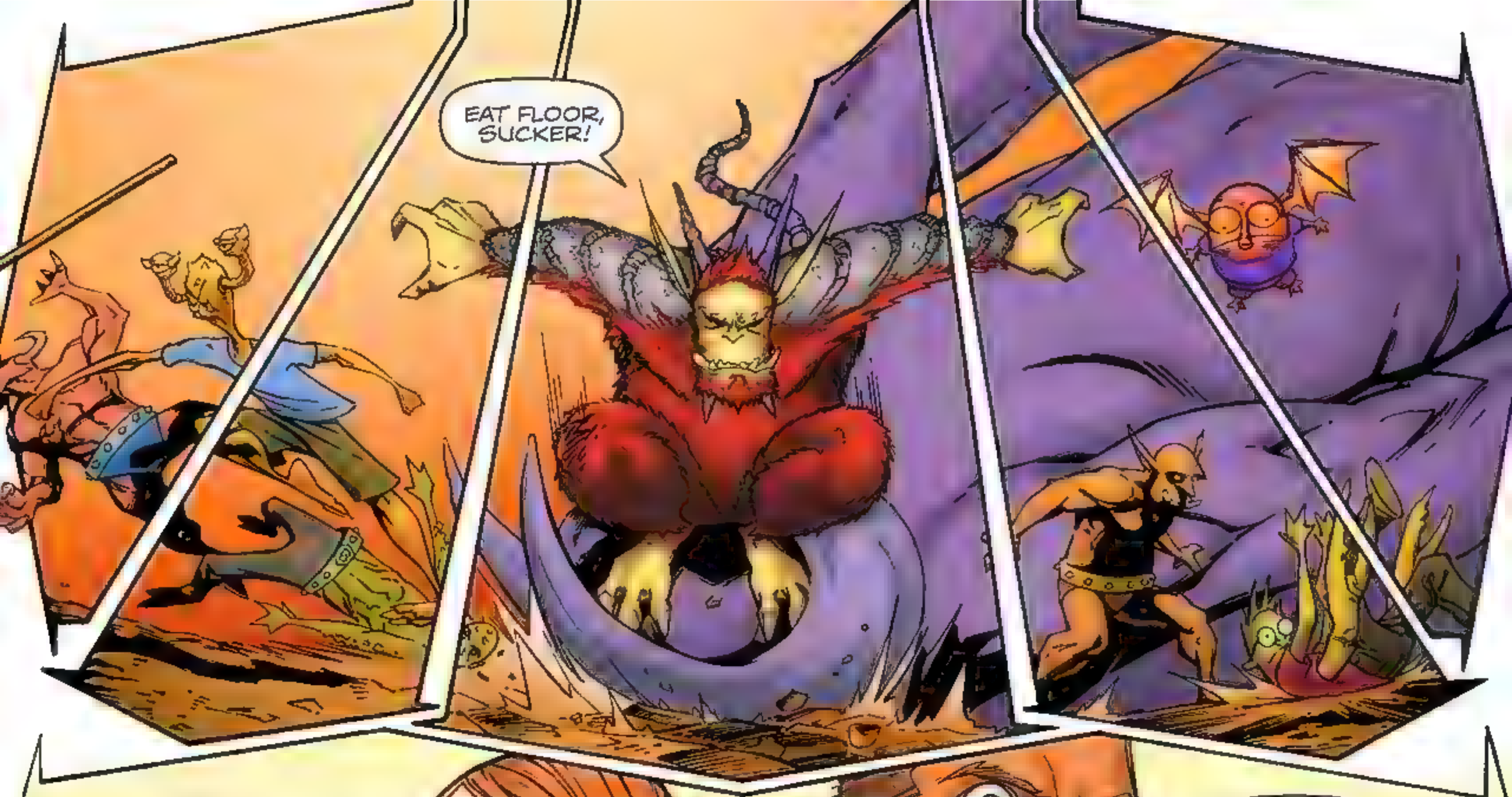
OK FELLAS,
TIME TO SEPARATE
THE MEN FROM
THE BOYS.

LET'S DO
THIS!



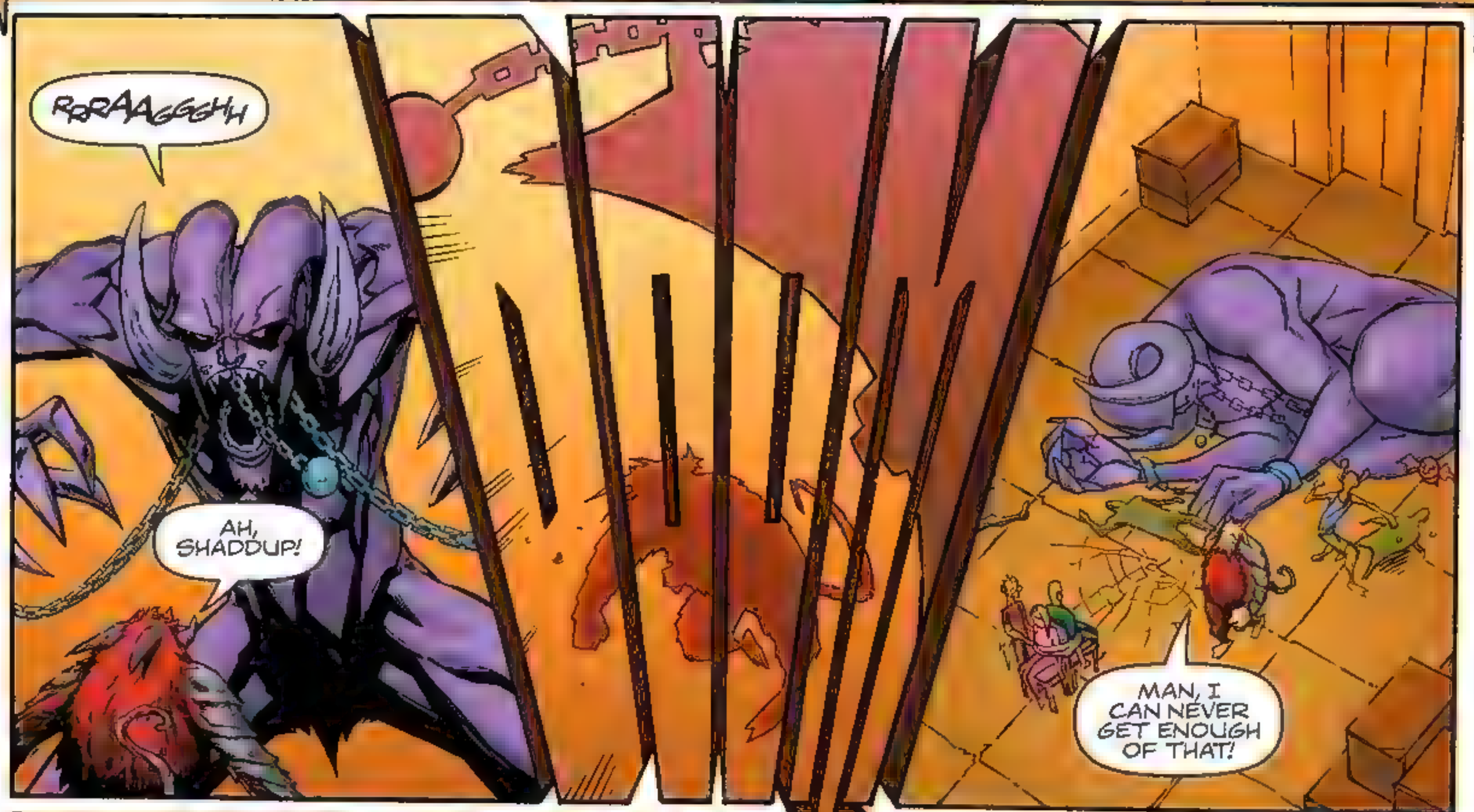
HEADS UP,
MEAT SACKS!

MMMM...MEAT!



EAT FLOOR,
SUCKER!

ALRIGHT!



RRRAAGGGH

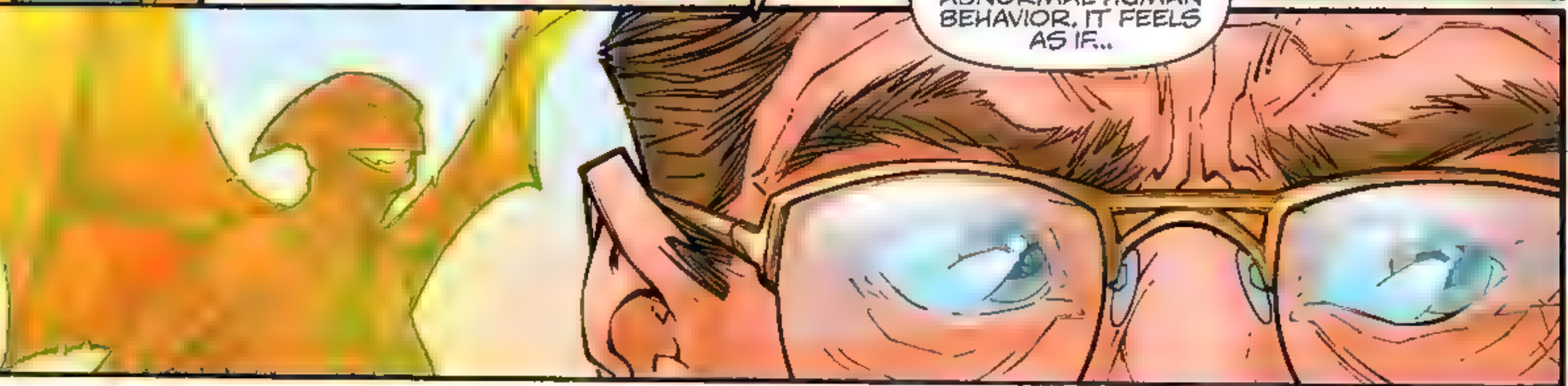
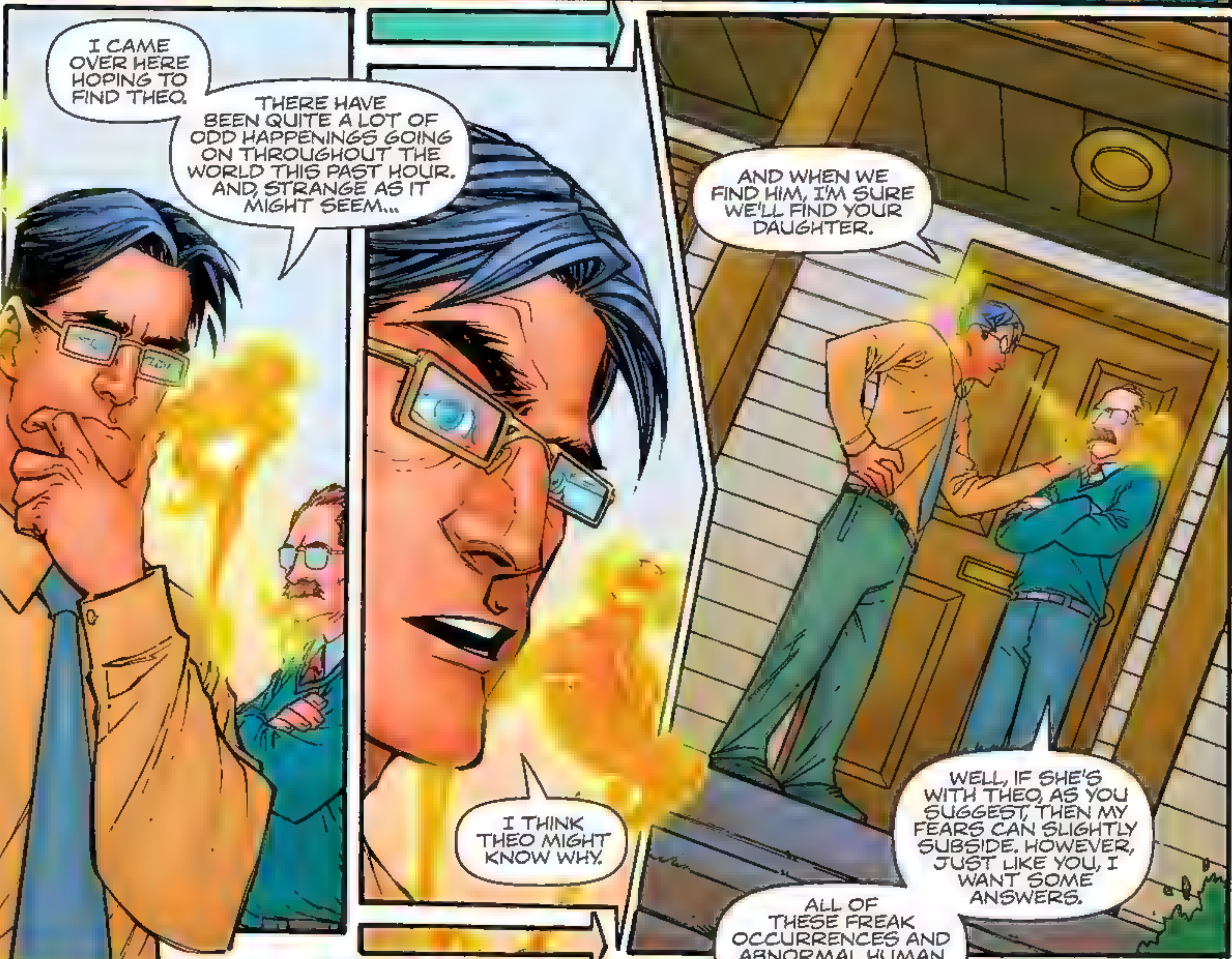
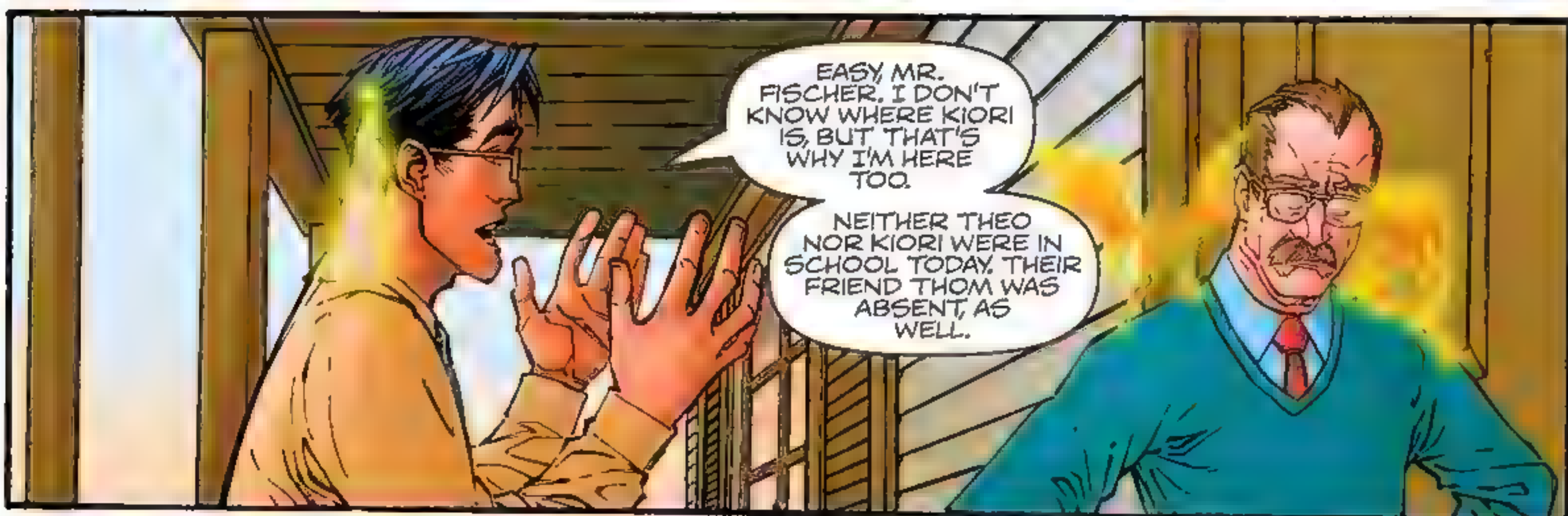
AH,
SHADDUP!

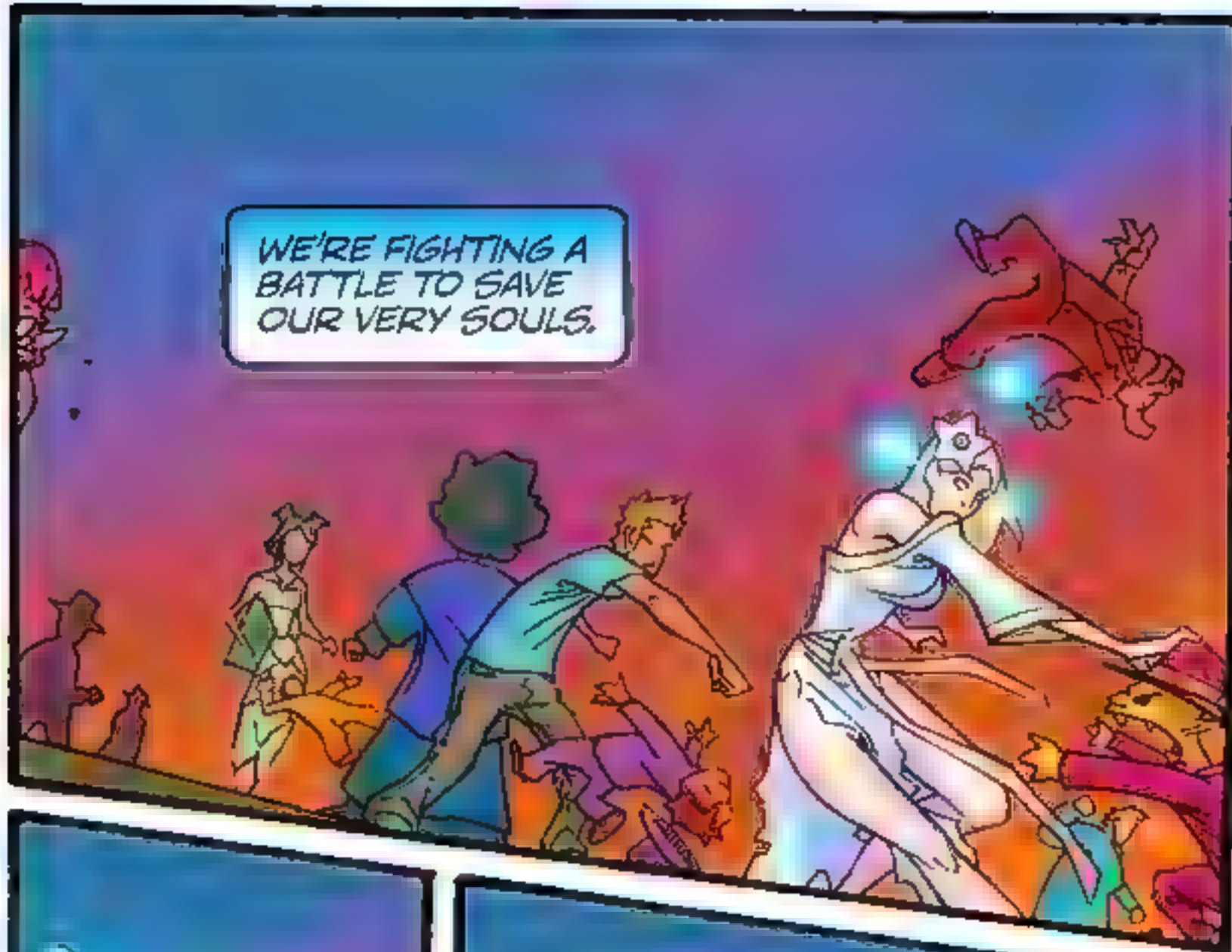
MAN, I
CAN NEVER
GET ENOUGH
OF THAT!



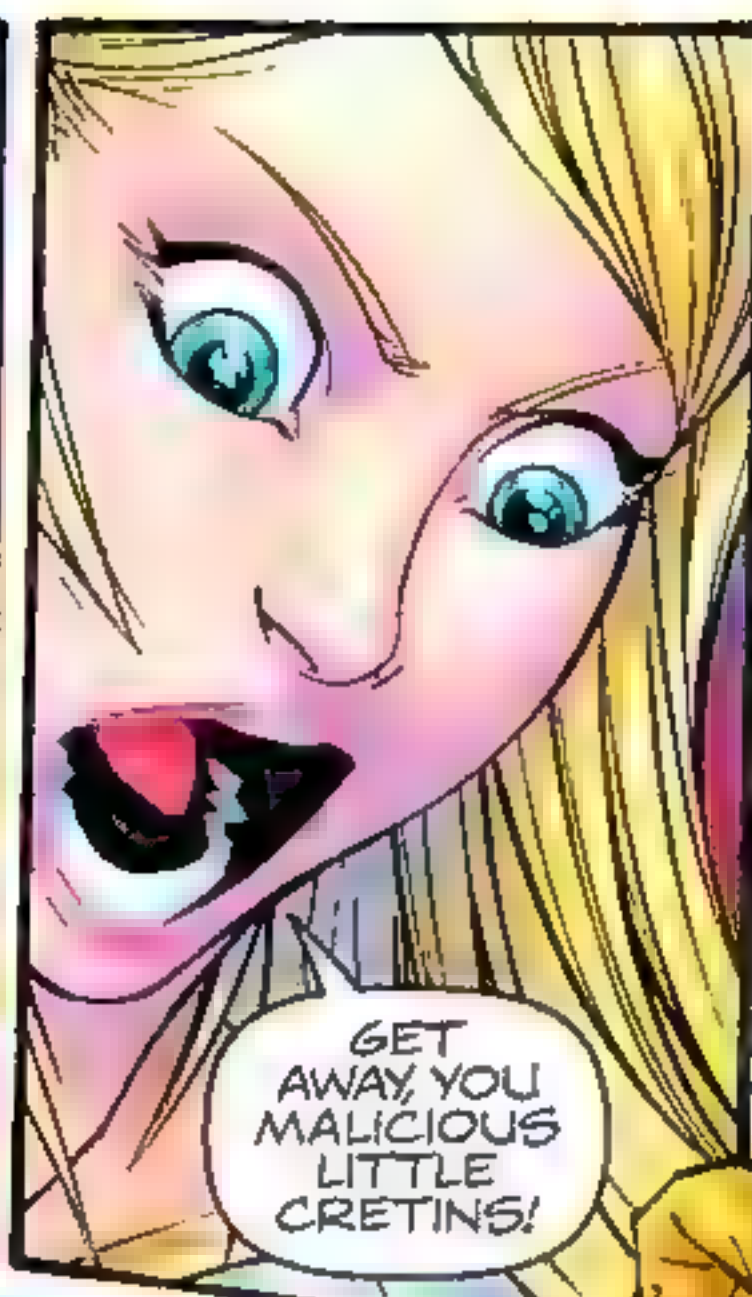
MY LADY,
TIME TO GET
YOU OUTTA
HERE.

YOU TOO,
CLOWN BOY.
LET'S GO





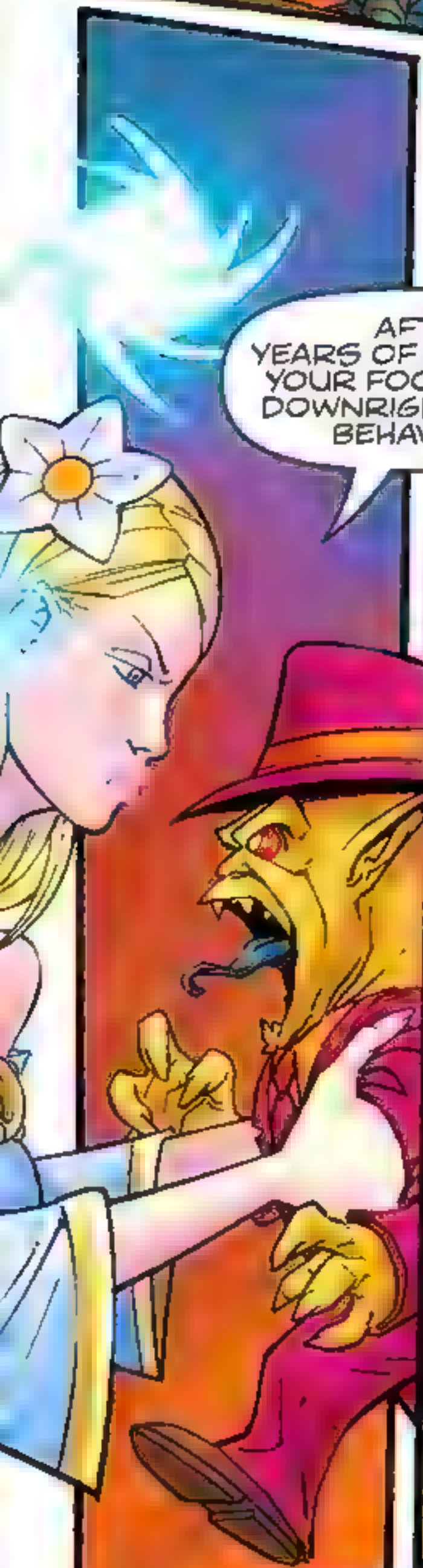
WE'RE FIGHTING A BATTLE TO SAVE OUR VERY SOULS.



GET AWAY, YOU MALICIOUS LITTLE CRETINS!



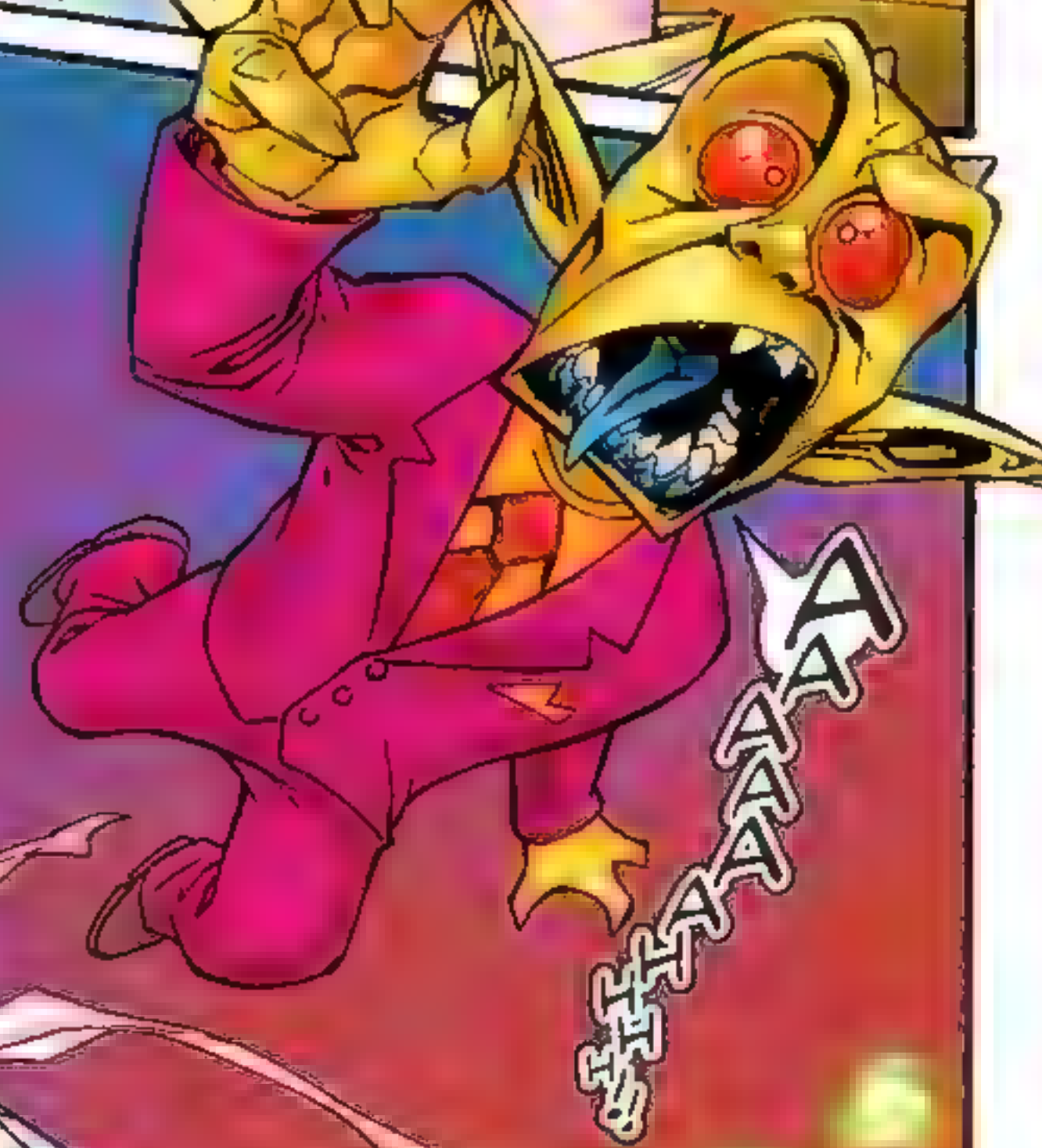
I HAVE GROWN QUITE TIRESOME OF THIS NONSENSE.



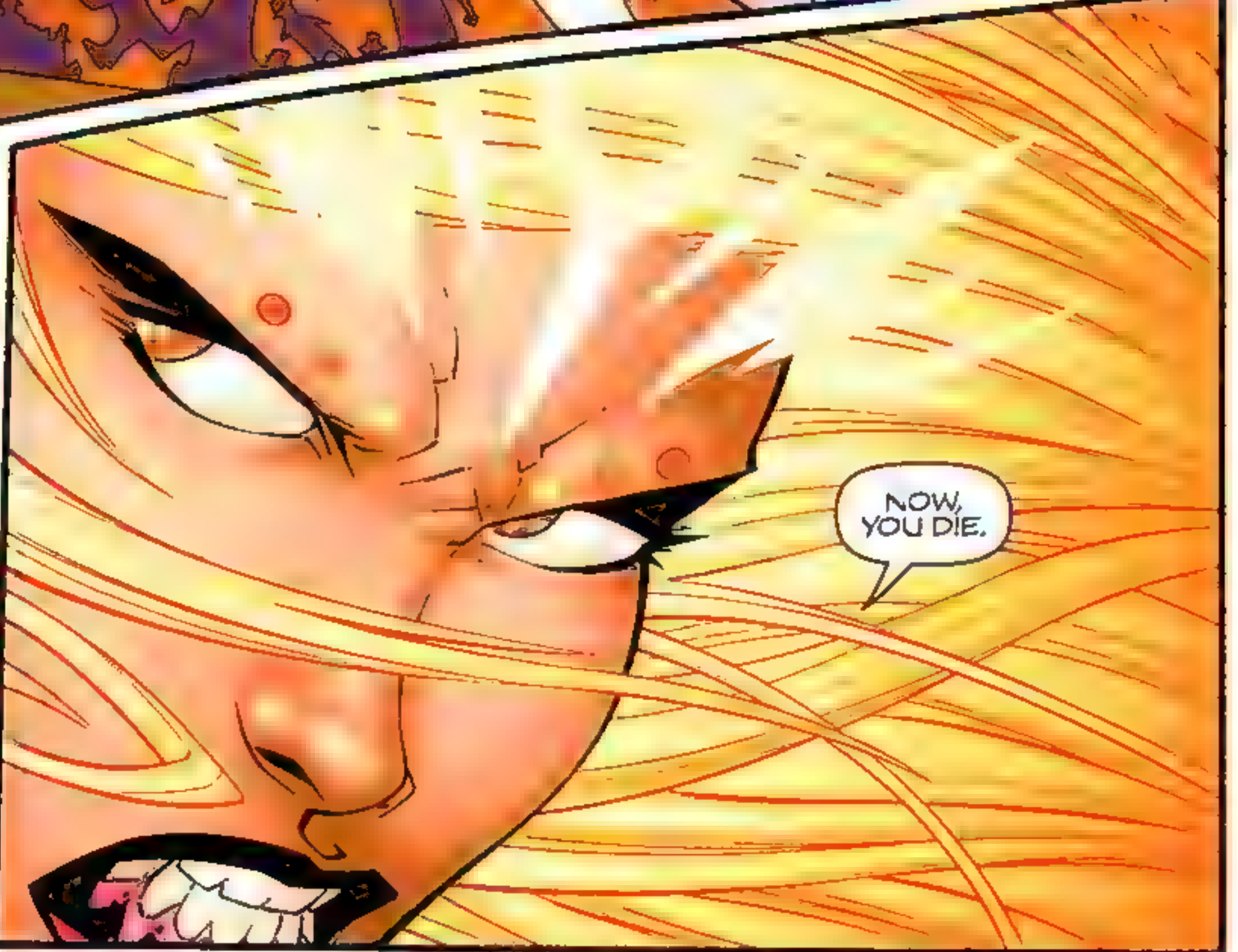
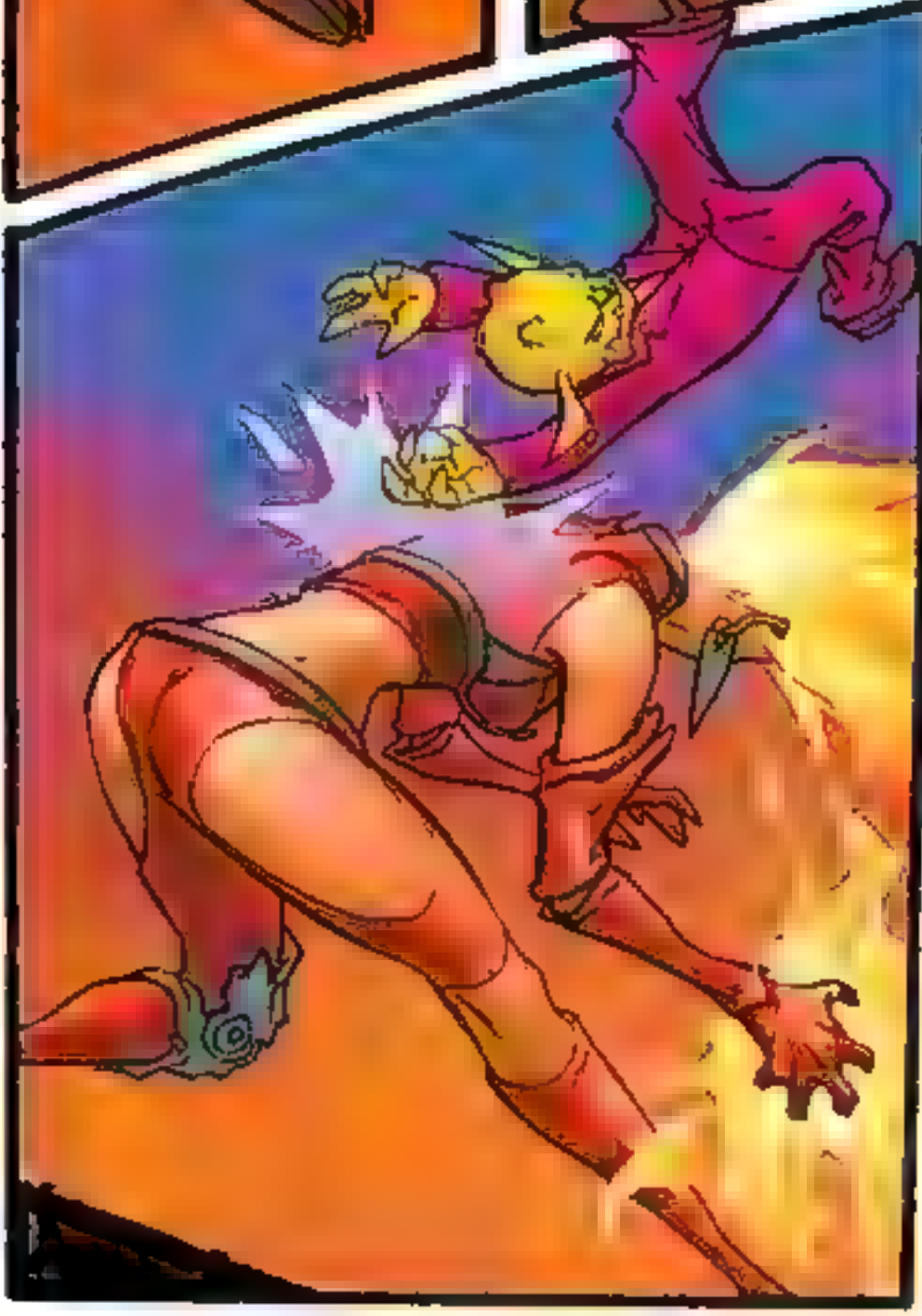
AFTER YEARS OF ENDURING YOUR FOOLISH AND DOWNRIGHT NASTY BEHAVIOR...



I AM GOING TO ENJOY THIS!

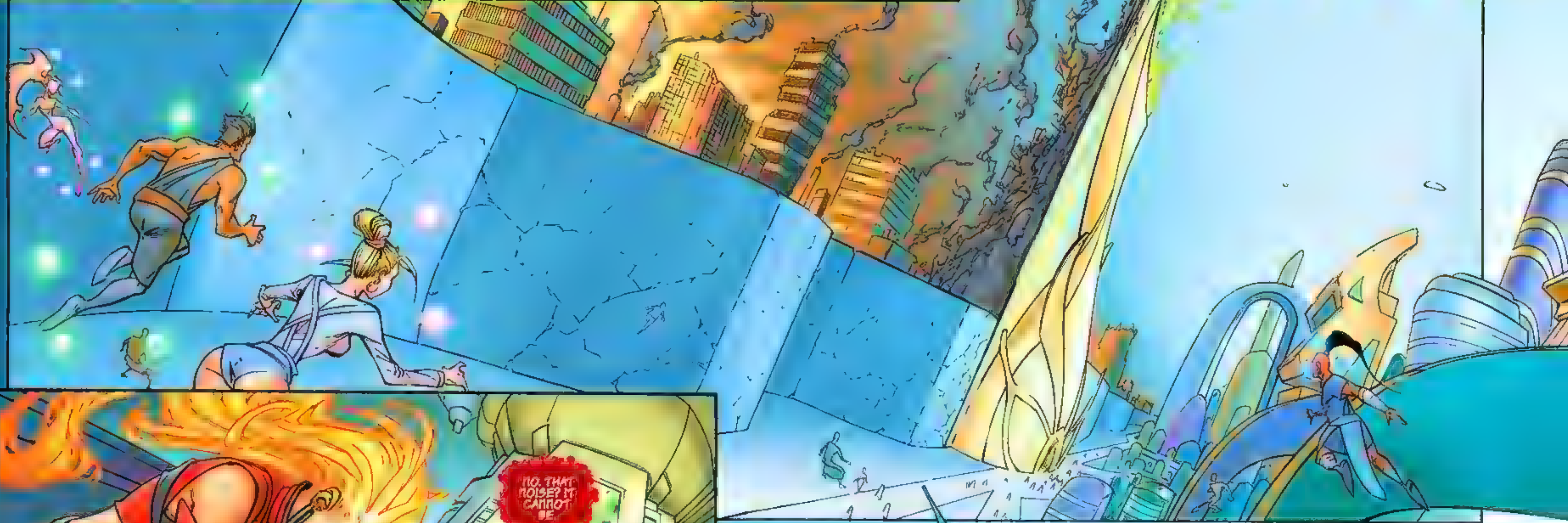
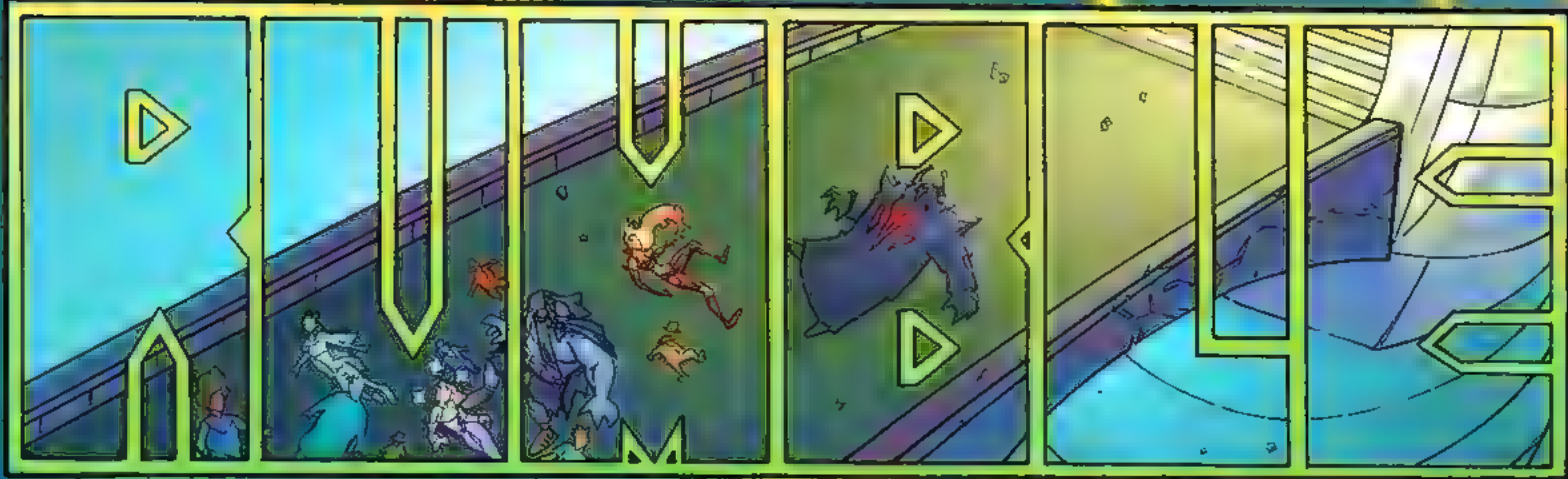


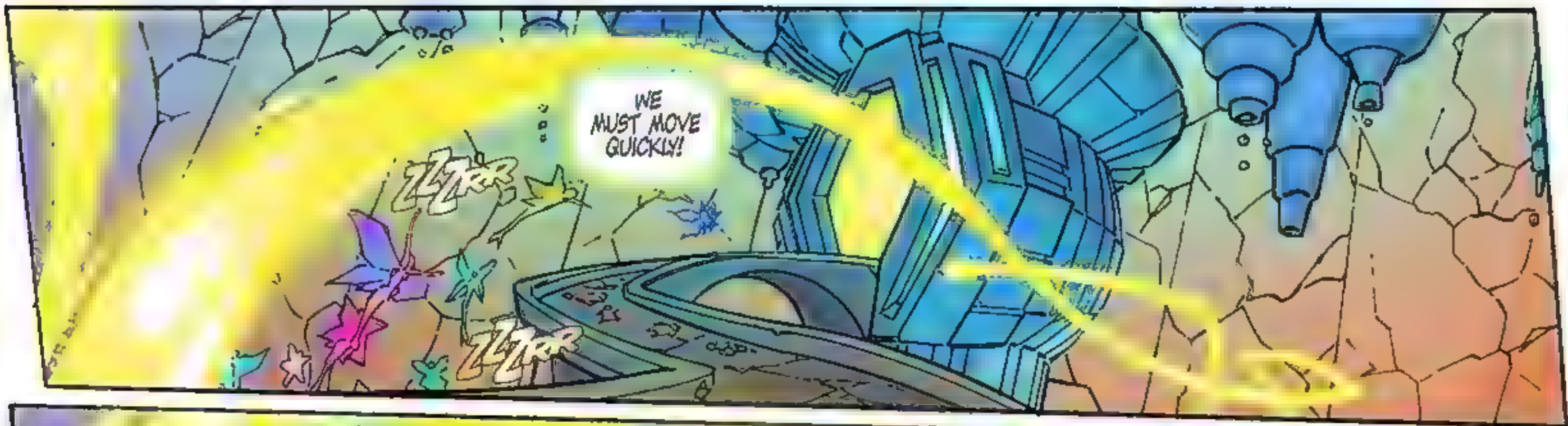
HAHAHAHA



NOW, YOU DIE.





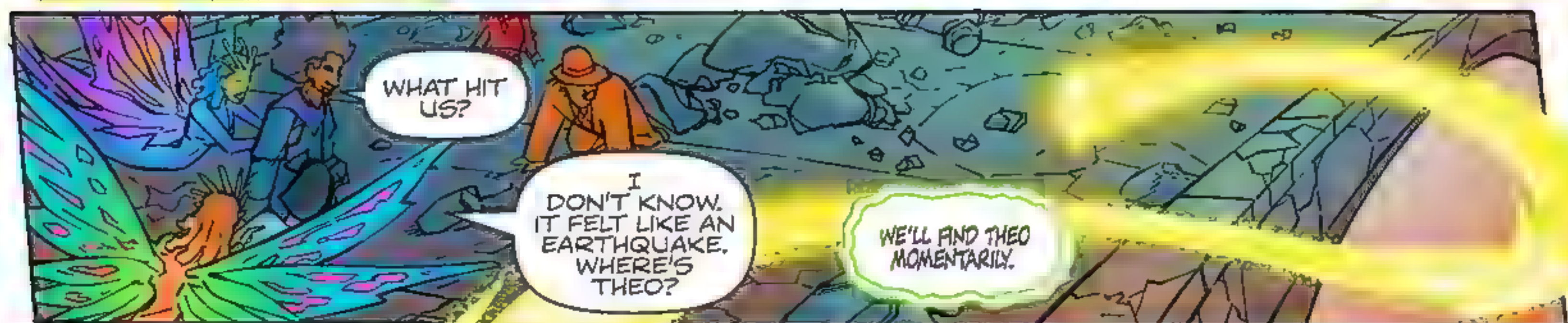


WE
MUST MOVE
QUICKLY!



WE NEED TO
LOCATE IT AND
CONTAIN THE
ENERGY.

OR PERSPECTA
WILL CONTINUE TO
RIP IN TWO!



WHAT HIT
US?

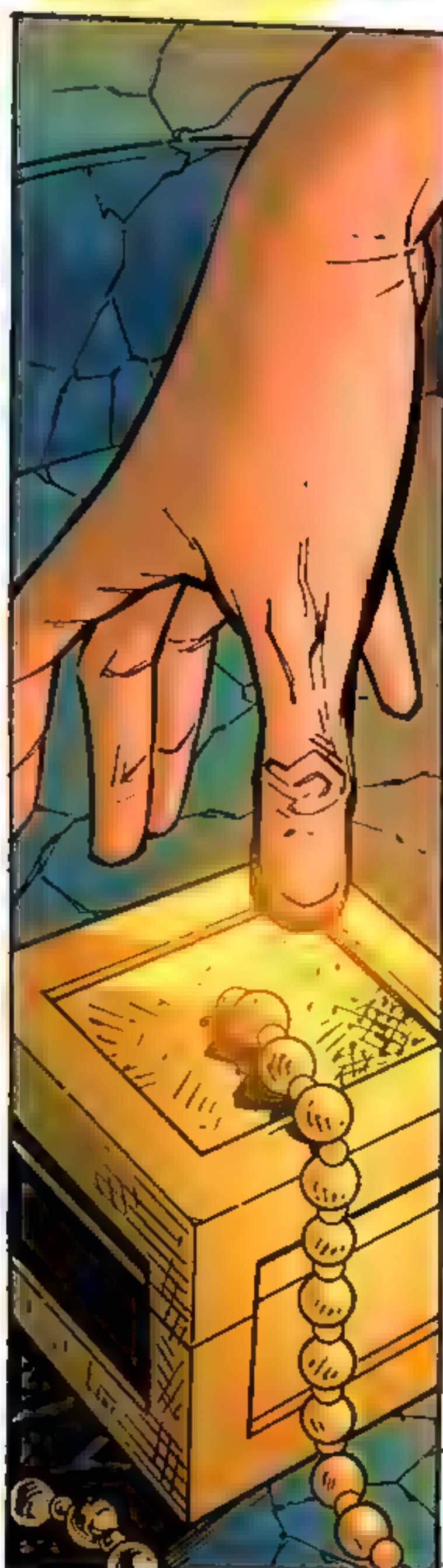
I
DON'T KNOW.
IT FELT LIKE AN
EARTHQUAKE.
WHERE'S
THEO?

WE'LL FIND THEO
MOMENTARILY.

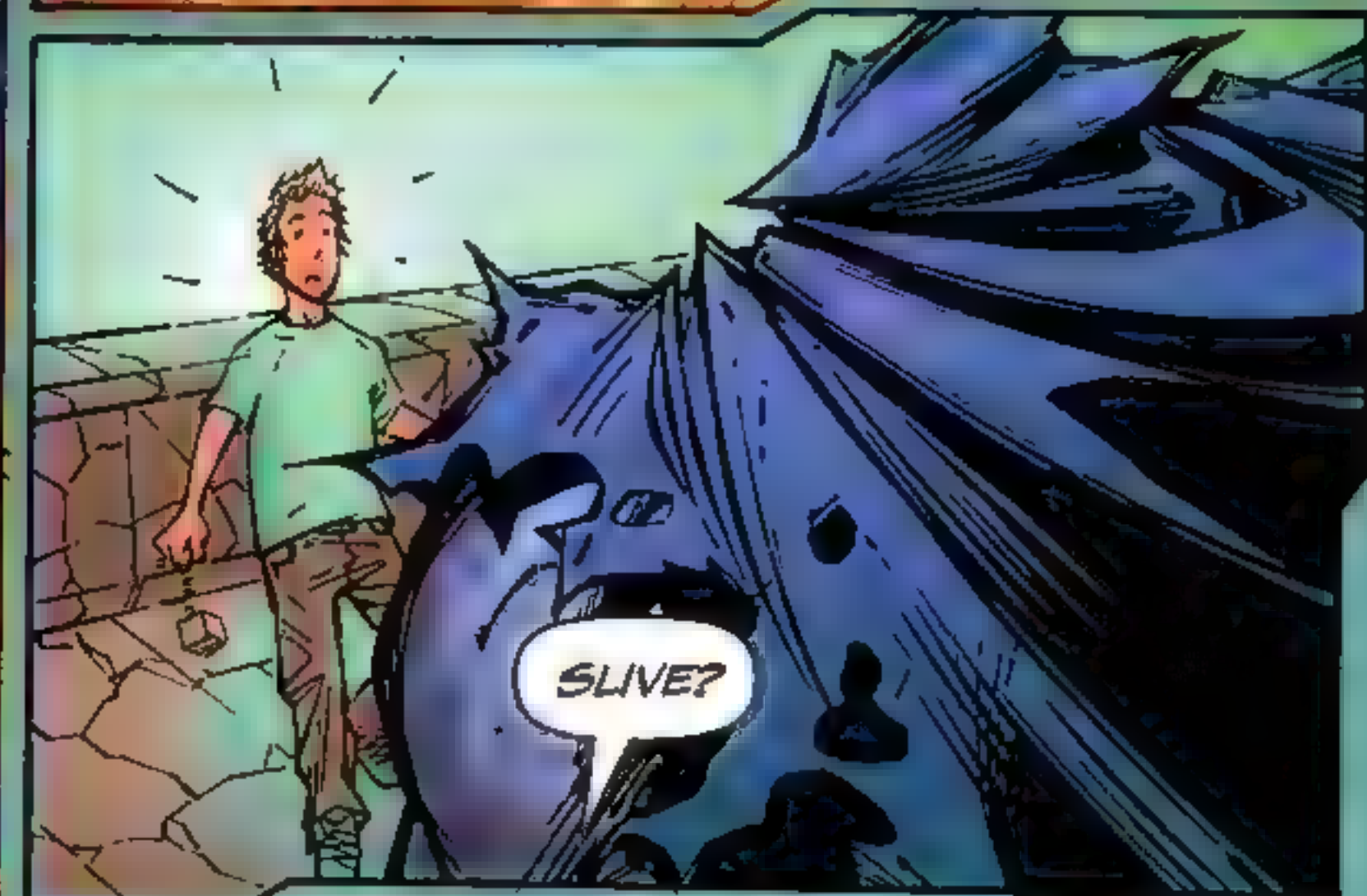


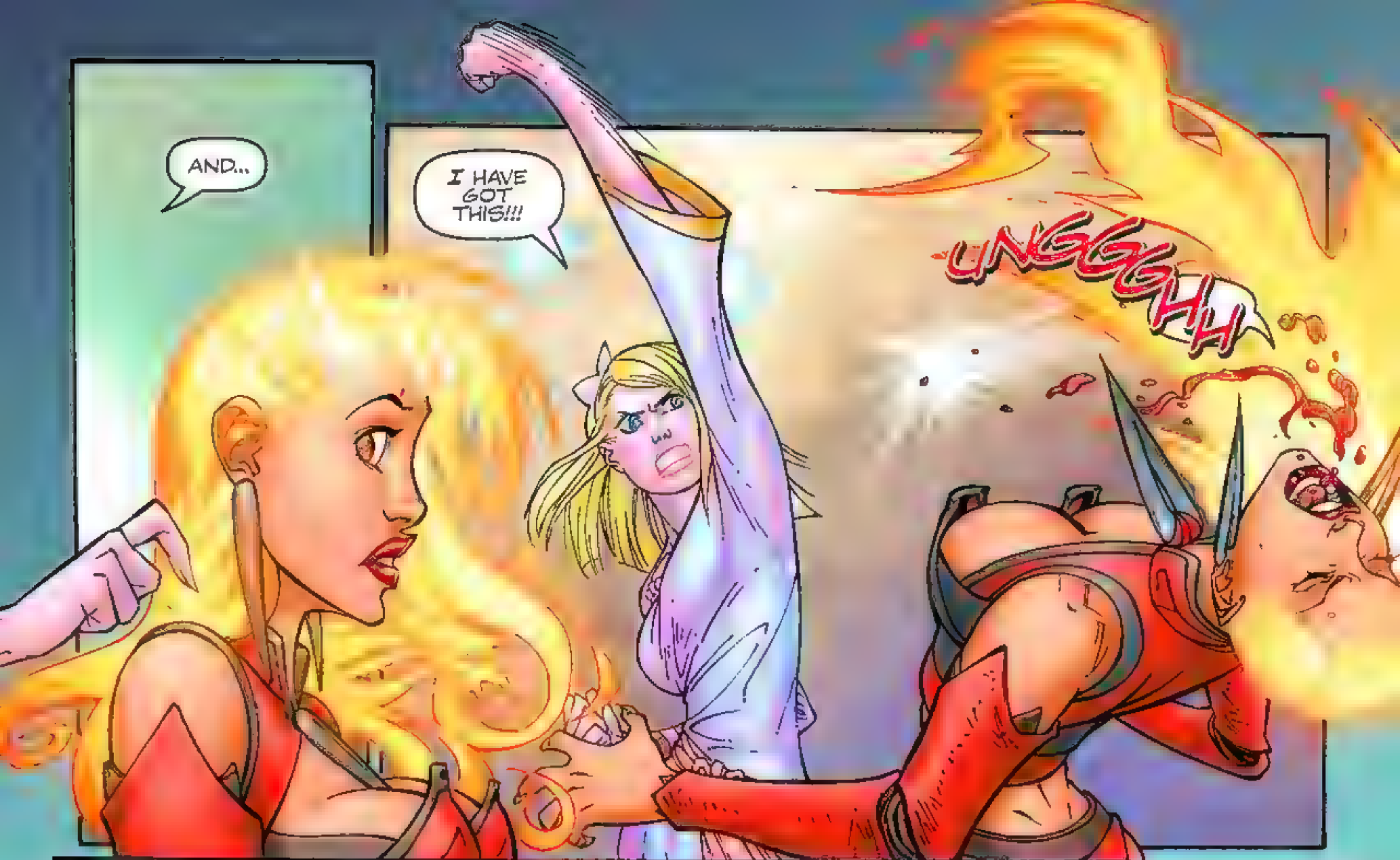
BUT FIRST, WE
MUST LOCATE THE
SACRED BOX.

LOOK!



DON'T
WORRY, I'VE
GOT IT.

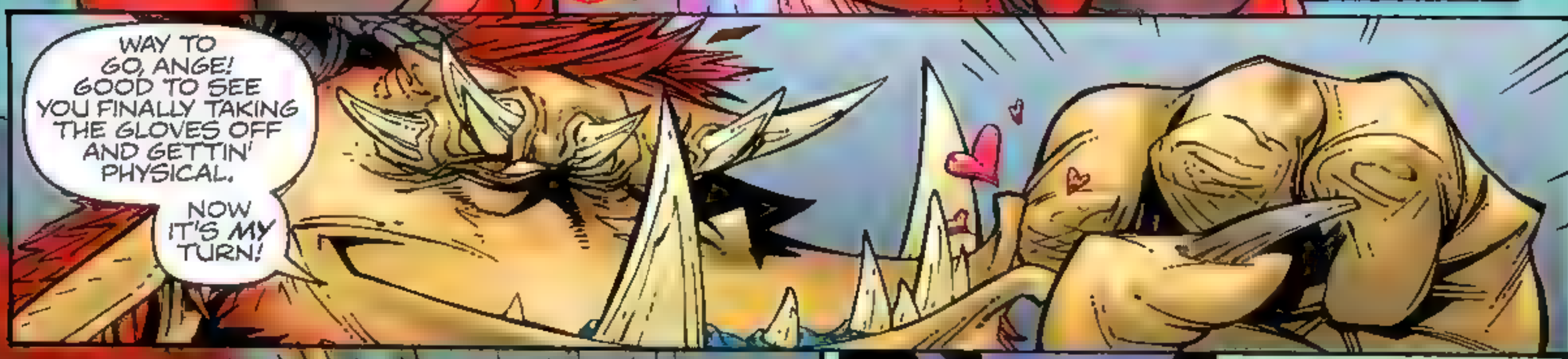




AND...

I HAVE GOT THIS!!!

UNG GGH



WAY TO GO, ANGE! GOOD TO SEE YOU FINALLY TAKING THE GLOVES OFF AND GETTIN' PHYSICAL.

NOW IT'S MY TURN!



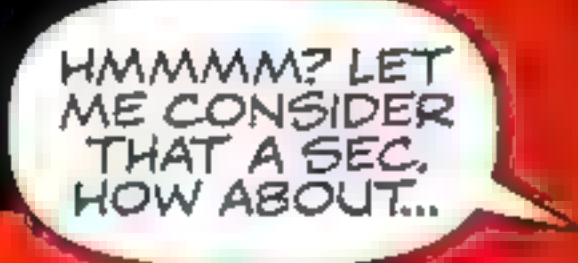
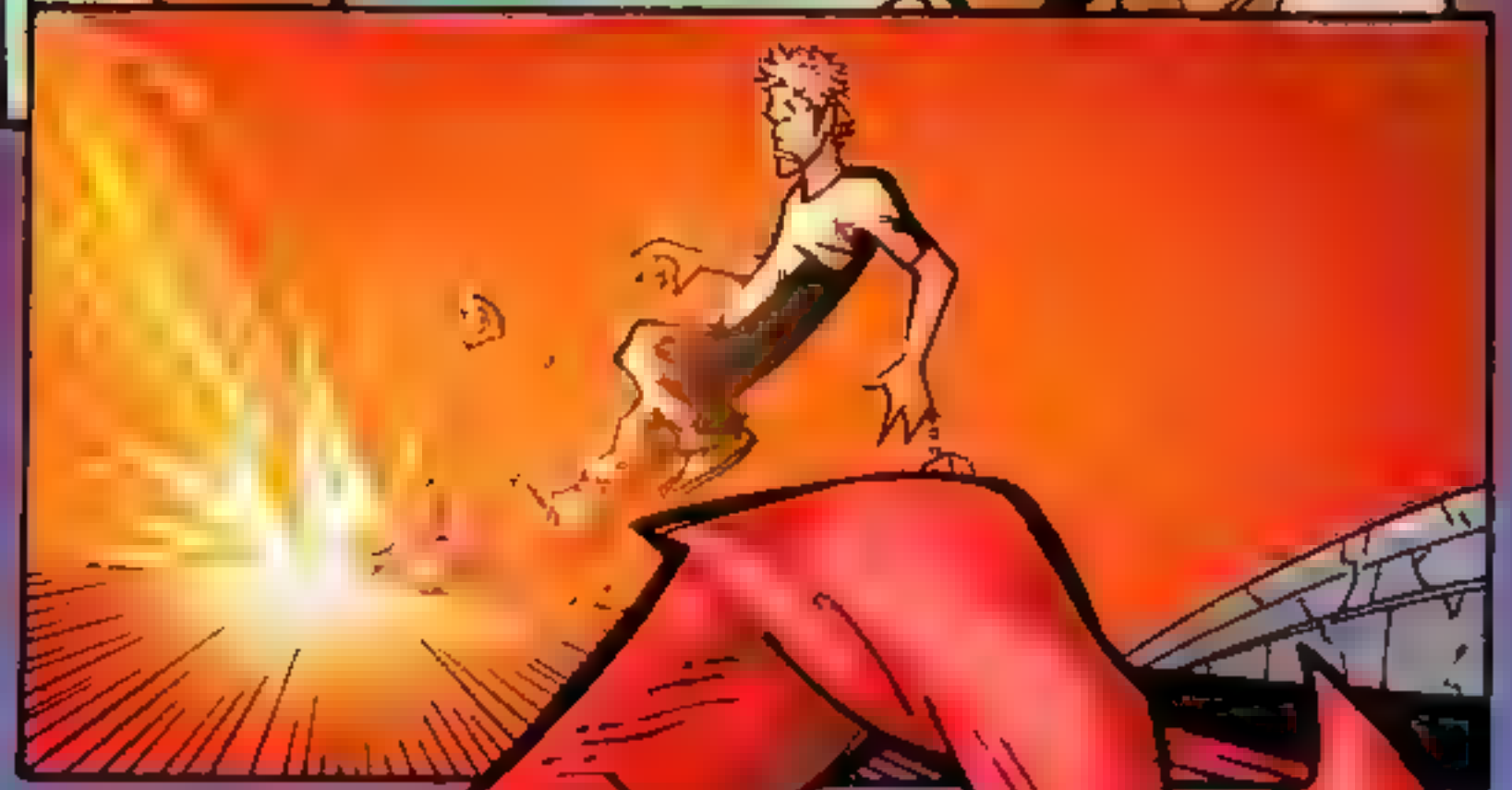
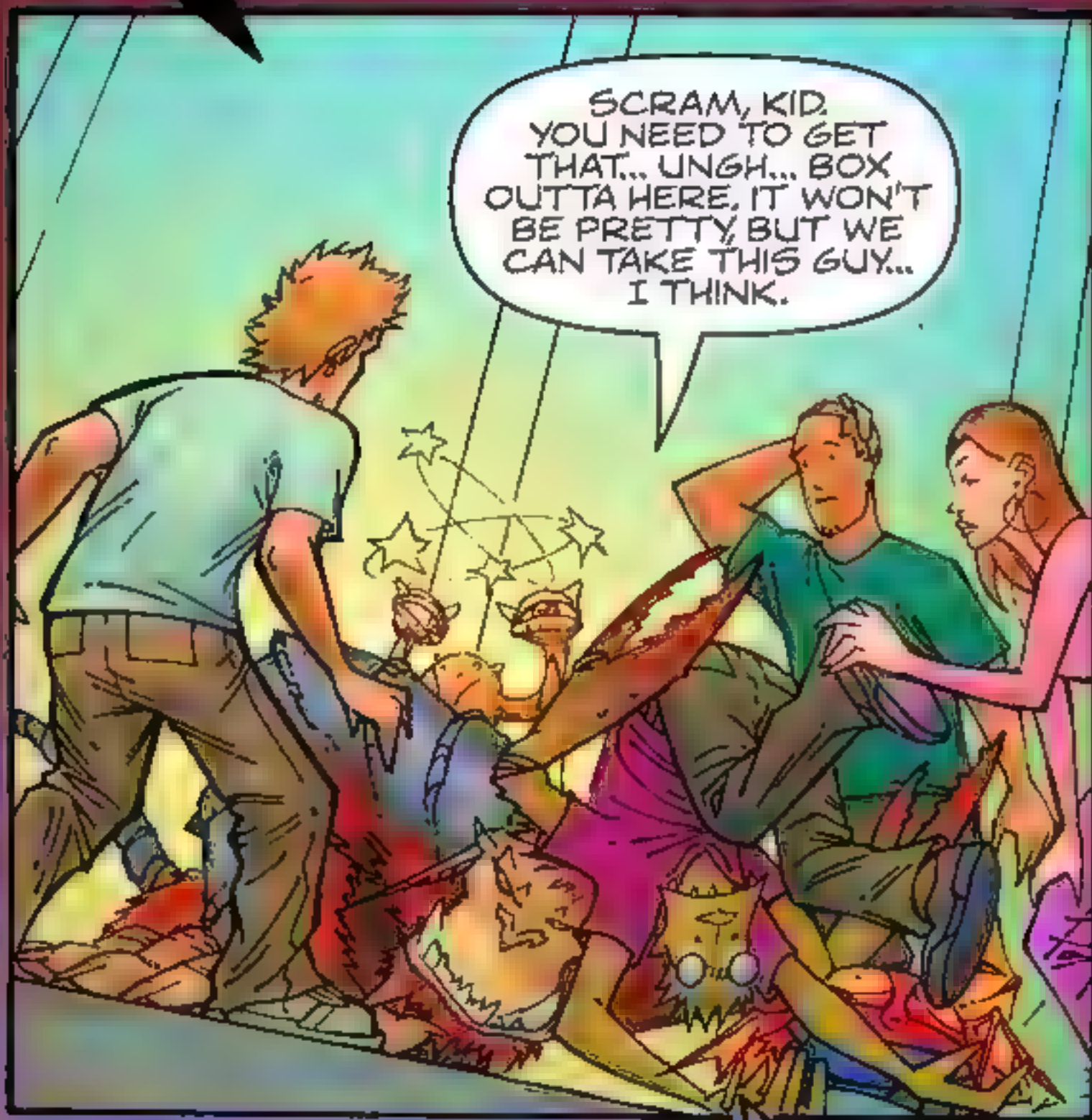
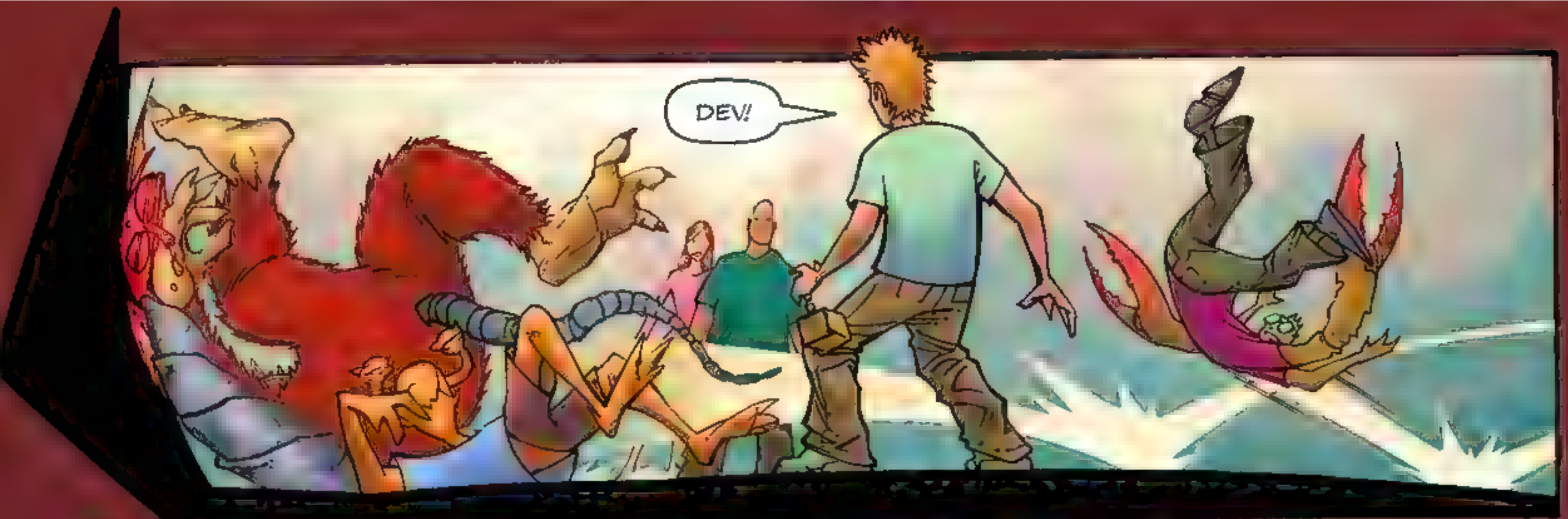
AND EVEN THOUGH I LOVE TO LEAD WITH MY LEFT, I THINK OL' GRUESOME HERE HAS EARNED HIMSELF THE RIGHT... RIGHT IN THE KISSER!



GRRRRR

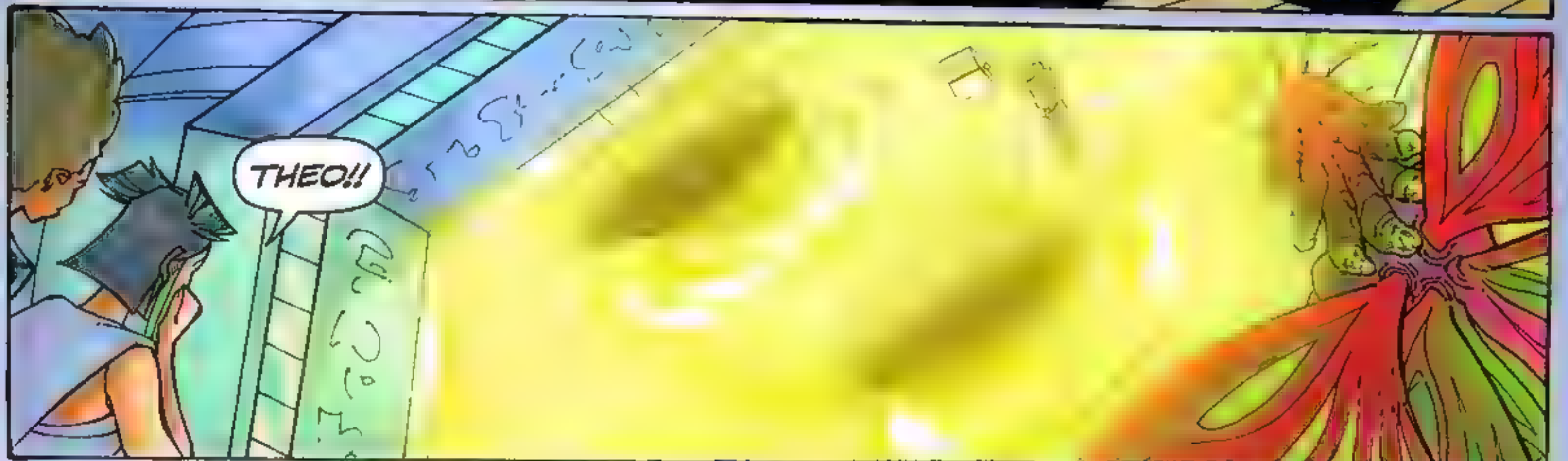
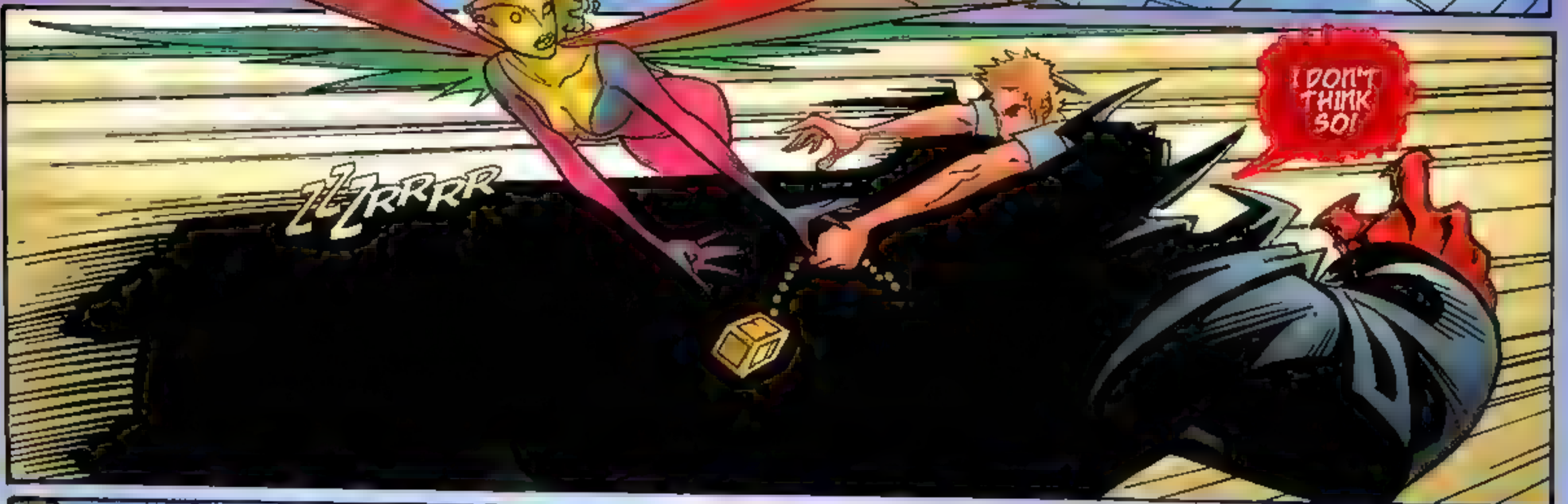
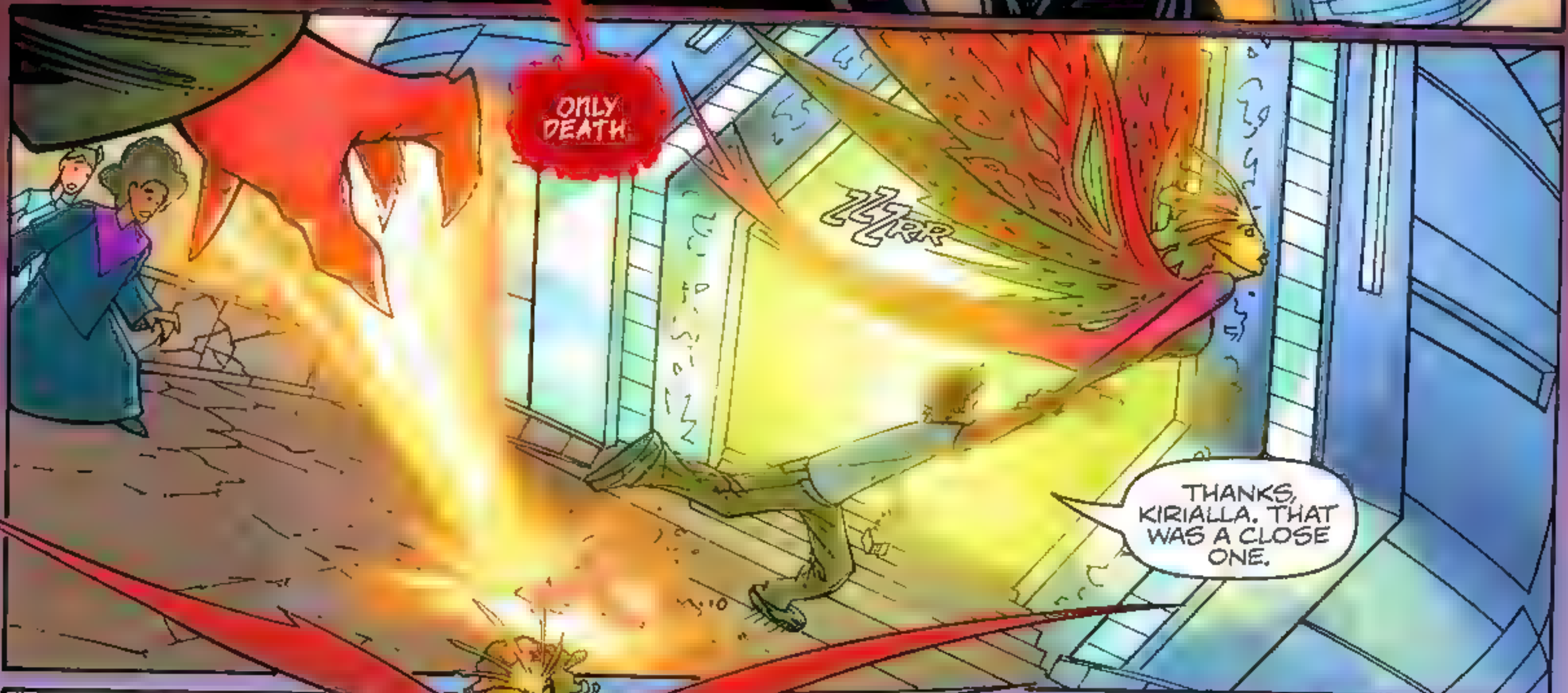


MOMMY.





YOU'RE ONLY
PROLONGING
THE INEVITABLE
THERE IS NO
ESCAPE



WE'RE
IN THE
CHAMBER!

I MIGHT NOT
GET BACK, BUT
YOU'LL NEVER
GET THIS!

NO MATTER,
ONCE I TAKE
BACK THAT BOX,
I'LL RETURN TO
PERSPECTA AND
YOU'LL BE LOST IN
HERE FOREVER!

YOUR
BRAVERY IS
ADMIRABLE.

BUT YOUR
TIME HAS COME
TO AN END.

NOW, GIVE
ME THE
BOX!

NEVER!

LET...

GO...

YOU HAVE
ABUSED OUR
POWER AND
THREATENED
OUR WORLD.

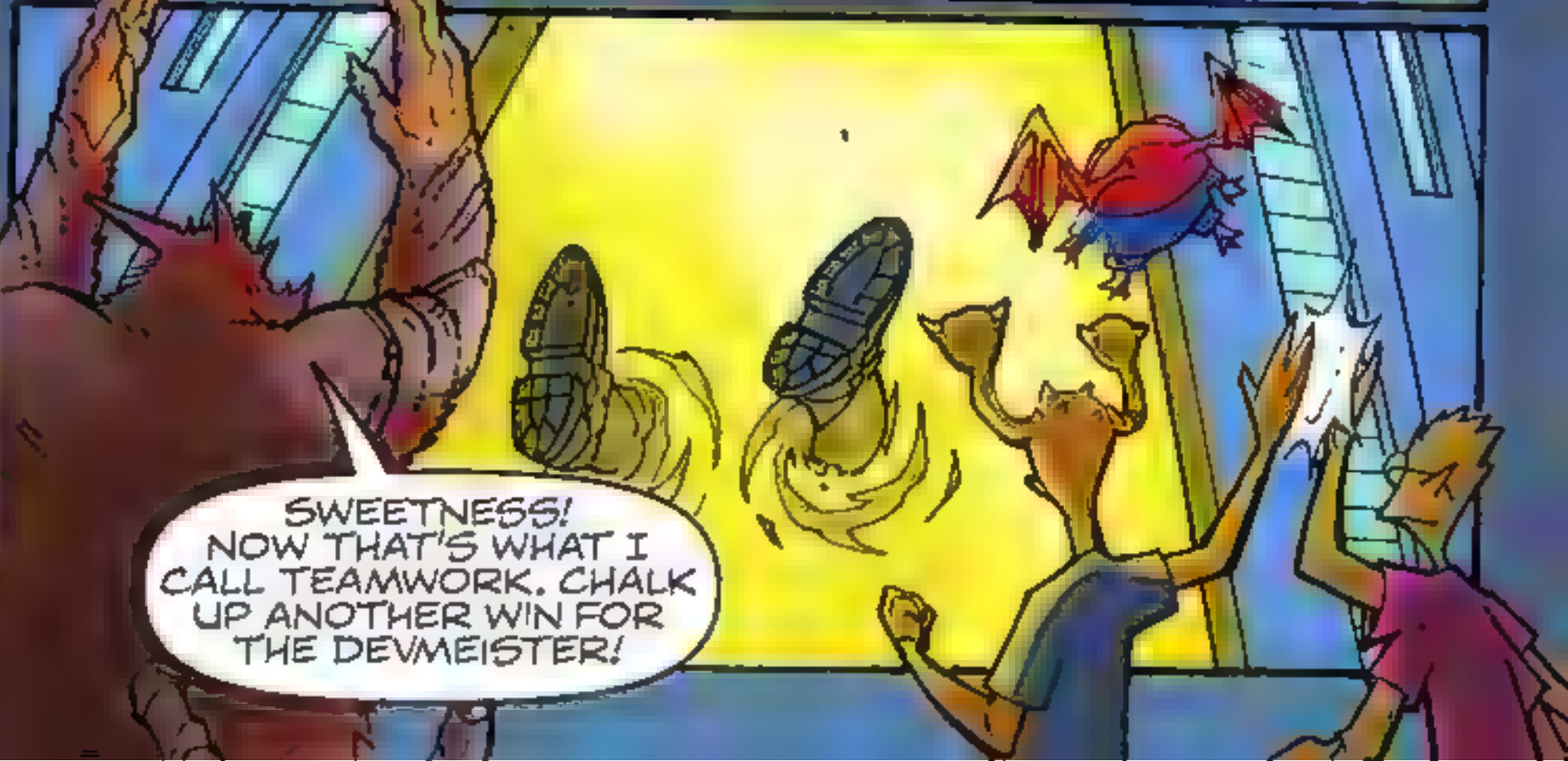
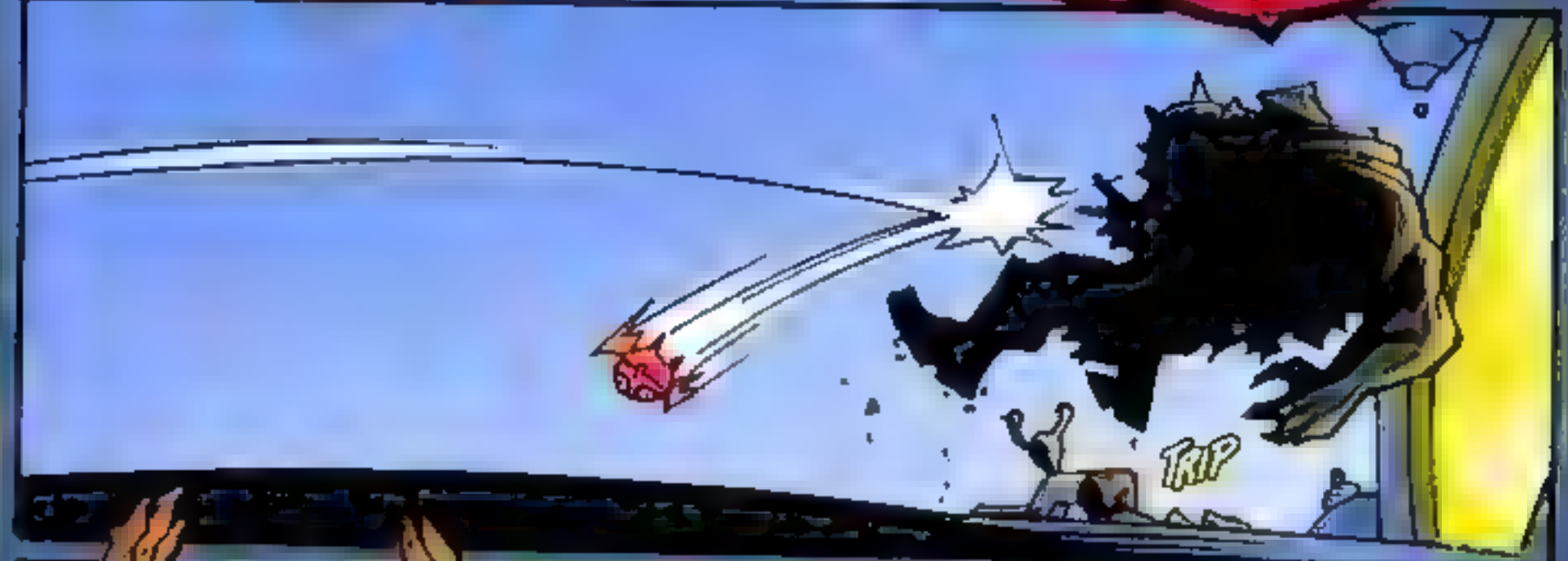
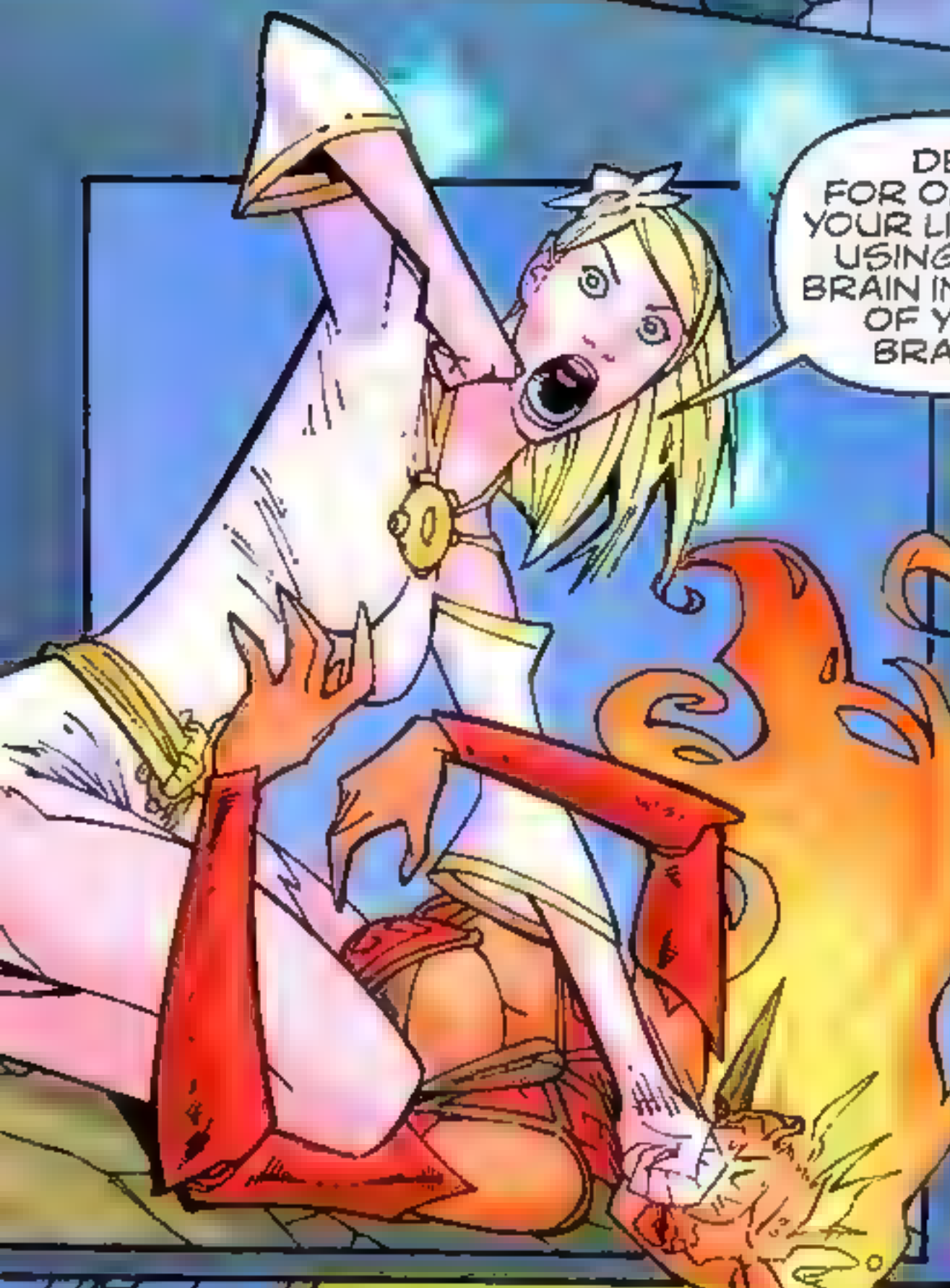
FOR THAT
TRANSGRESSION...

YOU MUST BE
PUNISHED!

NO! I
SHOULD BE
PERSPECTA'S
RIGHTFUL
LEADER!

IT
BELONGS
TO ME!

TO MEEEEEEEEEE...





WHO...
WHO ARE
YOU?

WE HAVE
EXISTED FOR
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS.

THROUGHOUT
TIME, WE HAVE
MAINTAINED AN EQUAL
BALANCE BETWEEN
THE INHABITANTS OF
OUR WORLD.

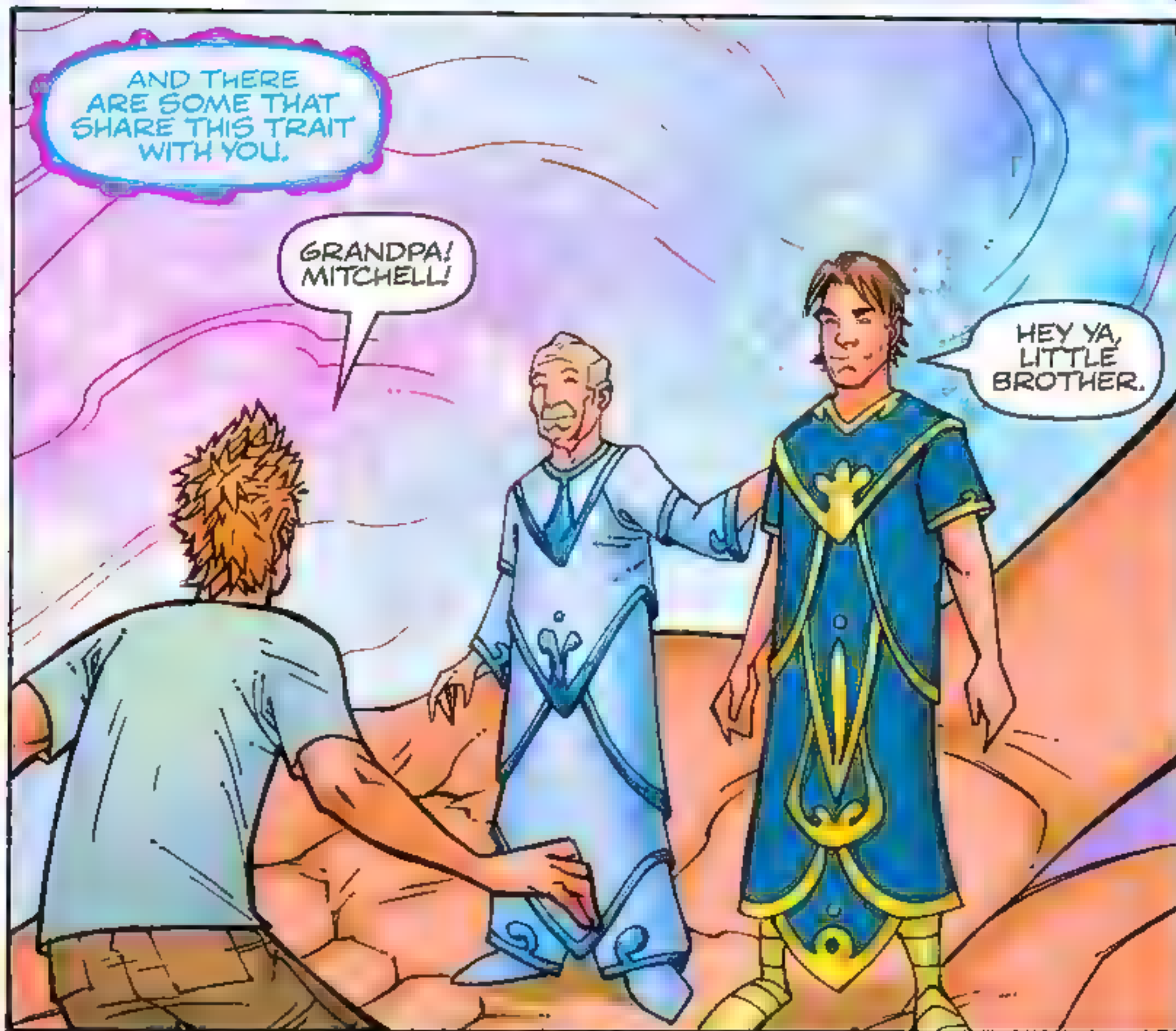
IF OUR ENERGY
IS MISUSED, IT CAN
AFFECT ALL THAT
SHAPES AND DEFINES
THE COURSE OF
HUMAN NATURE.



THAT'S
WHY WE KNEW
YOU WOULD
COME, THEO.

ME?

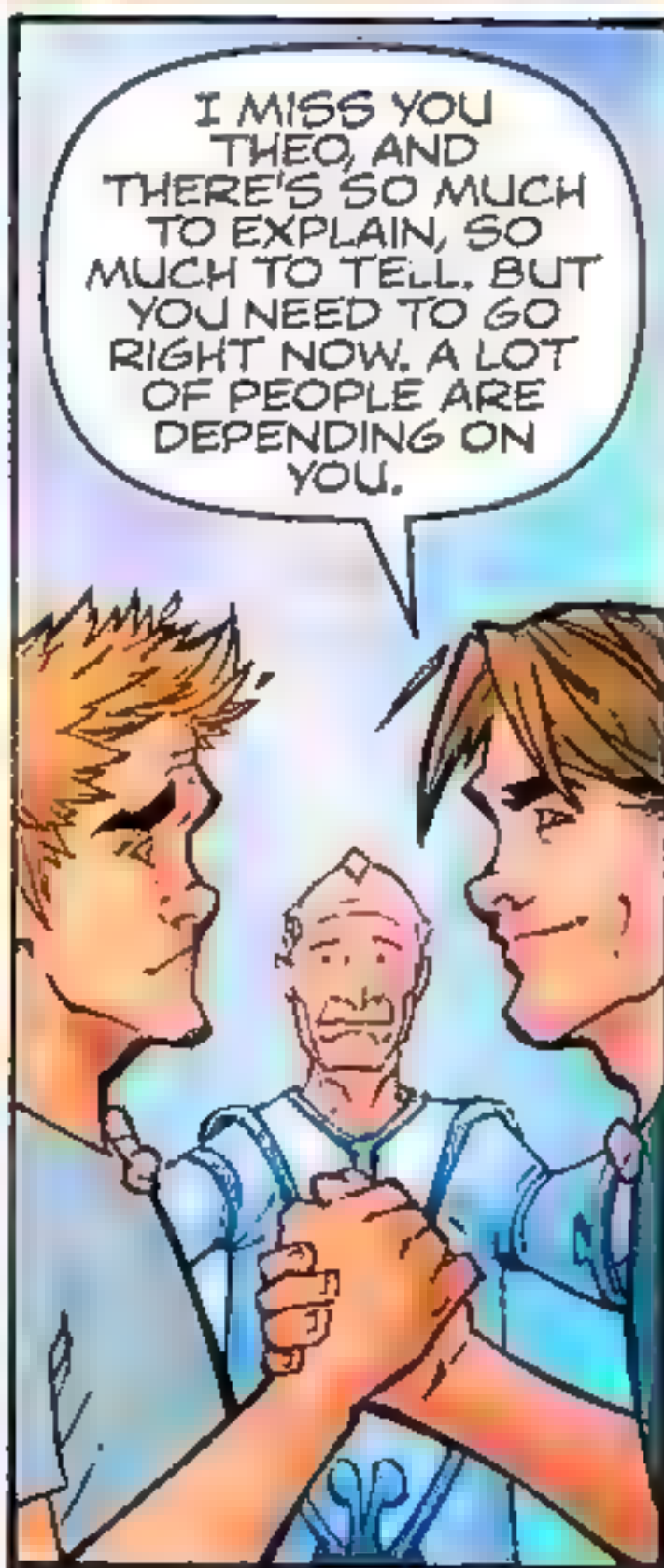
YOU HAVE A
SPIRIT UNLIKE FEW
OTHERS. IT RADIATES
WITH A BRILLIANT
GLOW. ONE OF HOPE
AND INSPIRATION.



AND THERE
ARE SOME THAT
SHARE THIS TRAIT
WITH YOU.

GRANDPA!
MITCHELL!

HEY YA,
LITTLE
BROTHER.



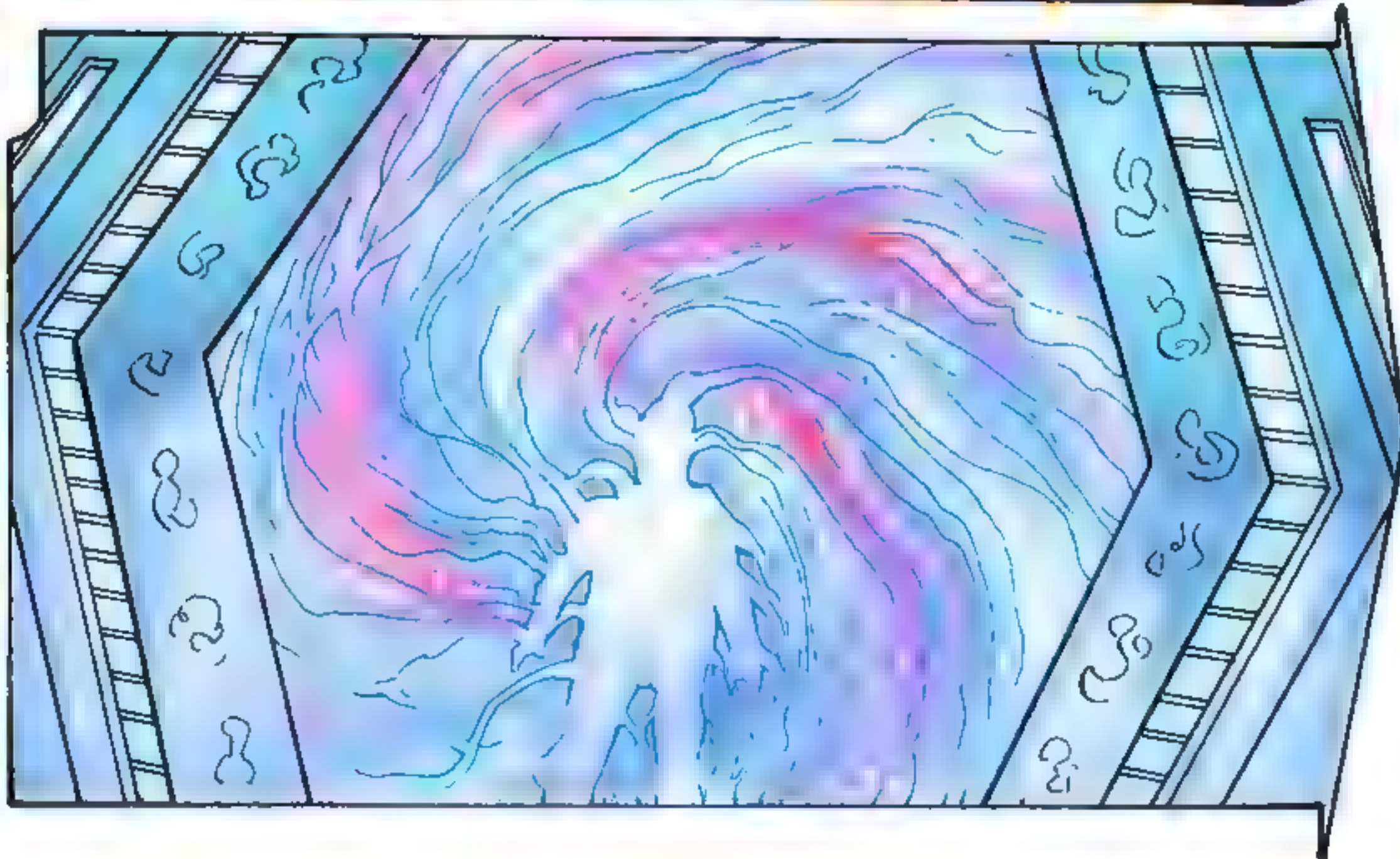
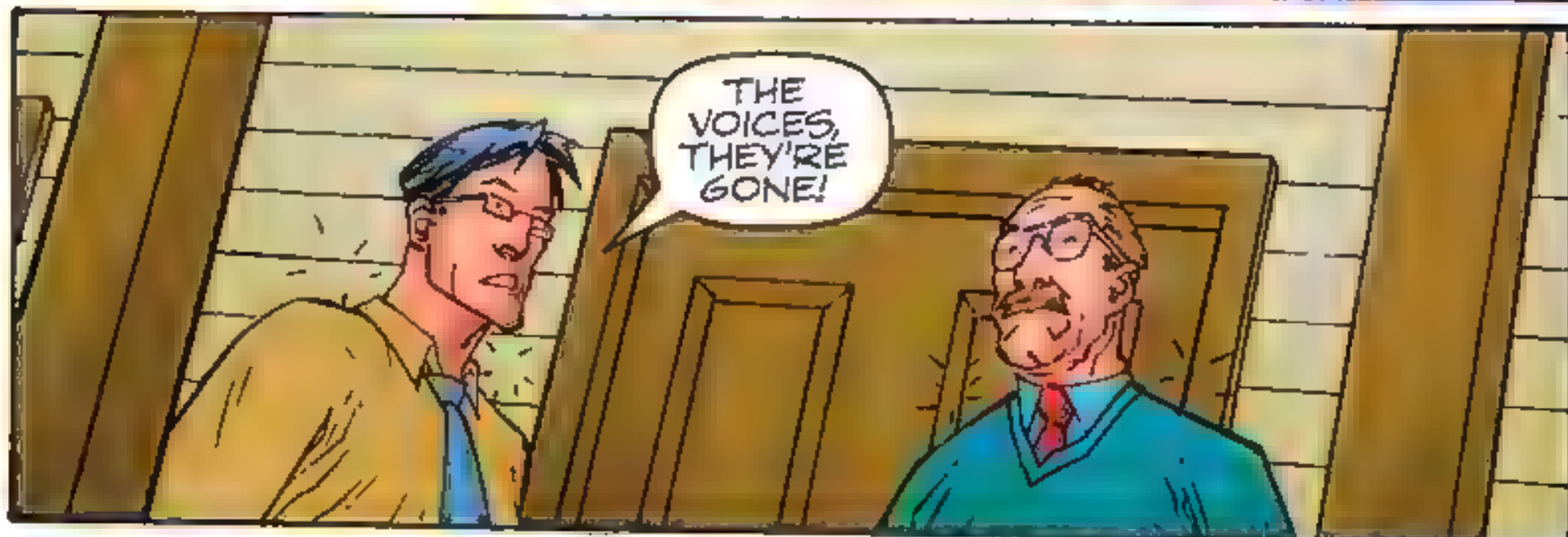
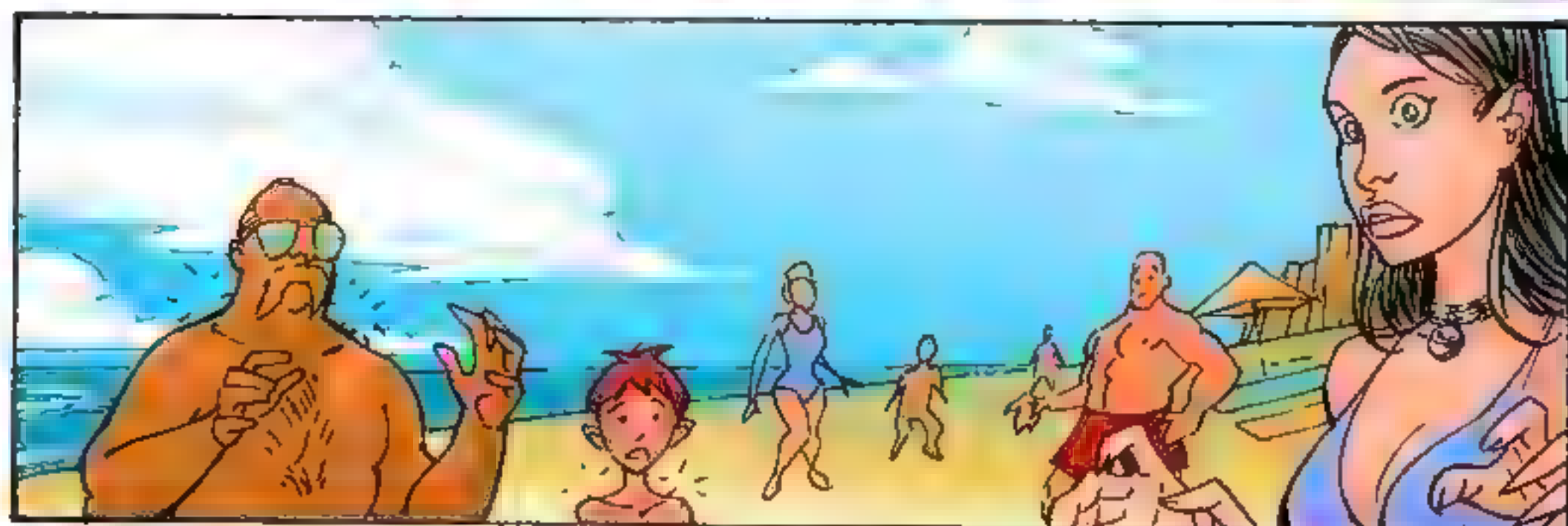
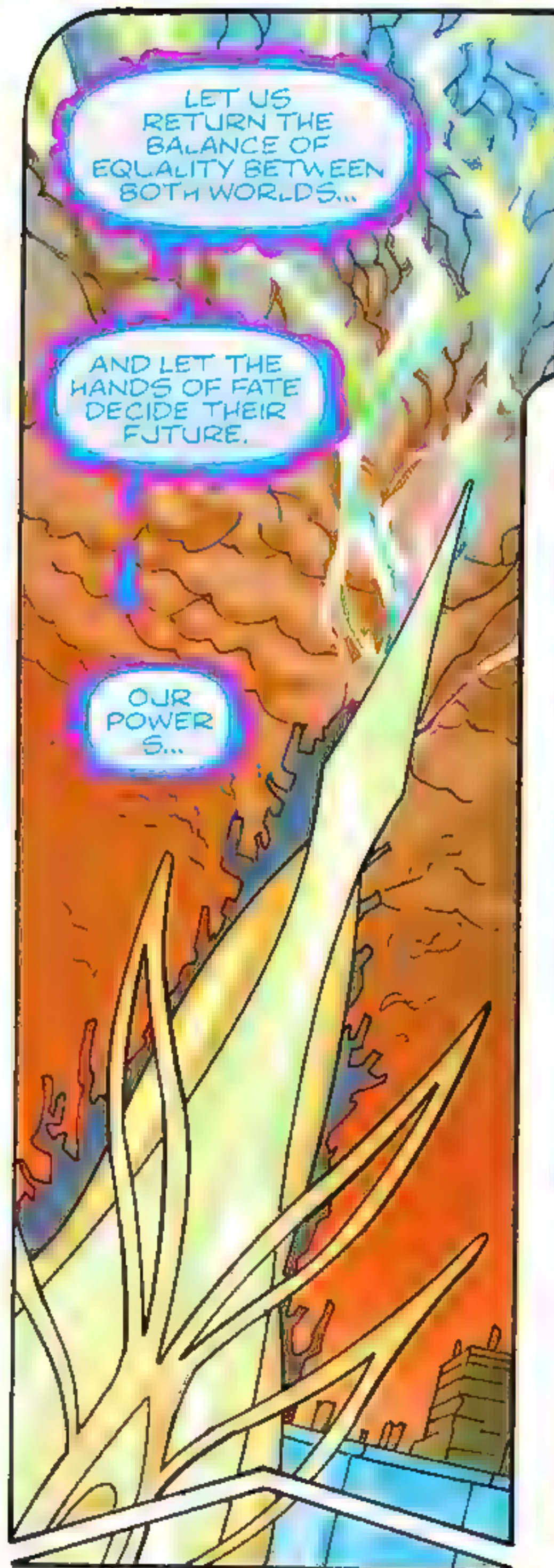
I MISS YOU
THEO, AND
THERE'S SO MUCH
TO EXPLAIN, SO
MUCH TO TELL. BUT
YOU NEED TO GO
RIGHT NOW. A LOT
OF PEOPLE ARE
DEPENDING ON
YOU.

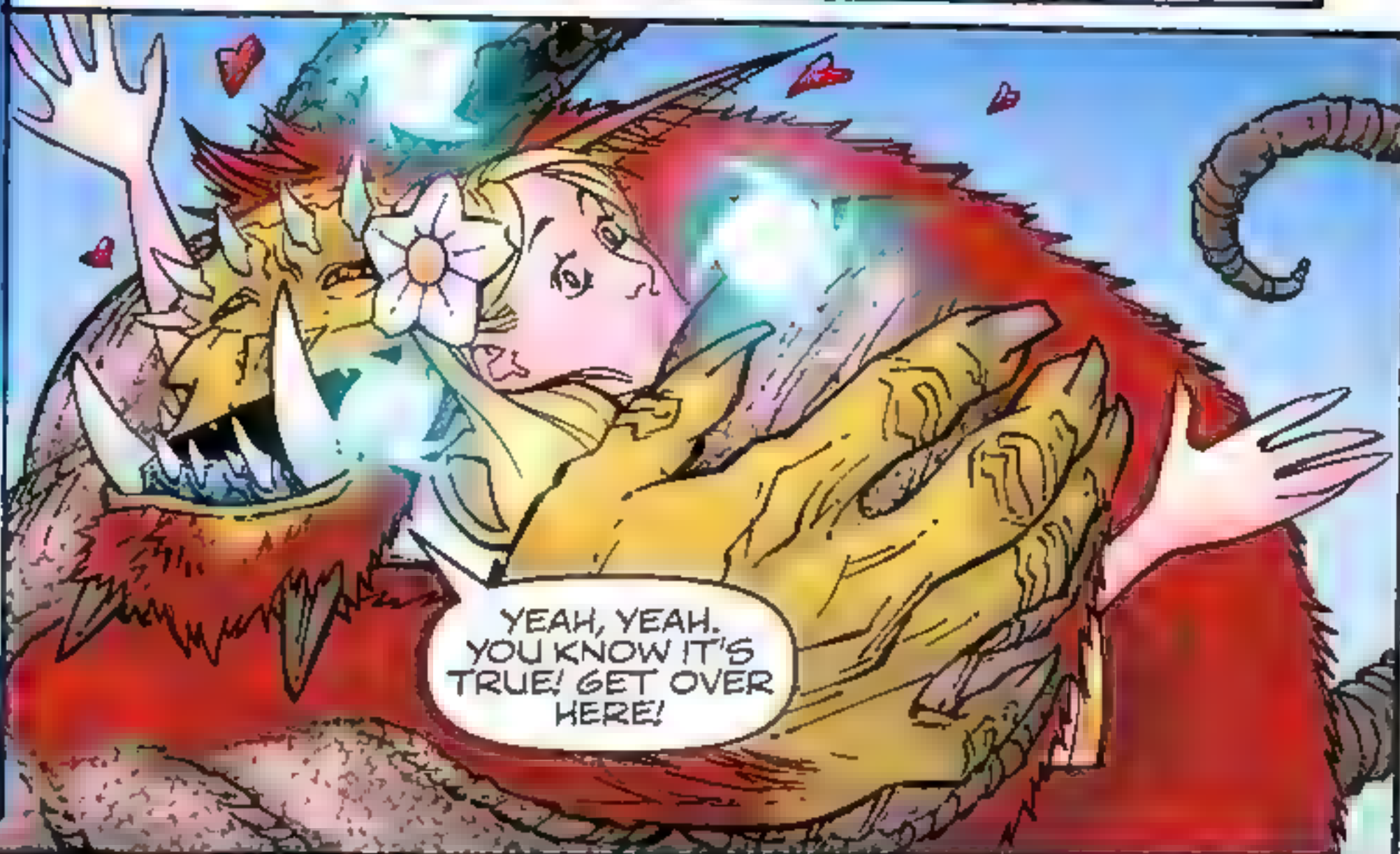
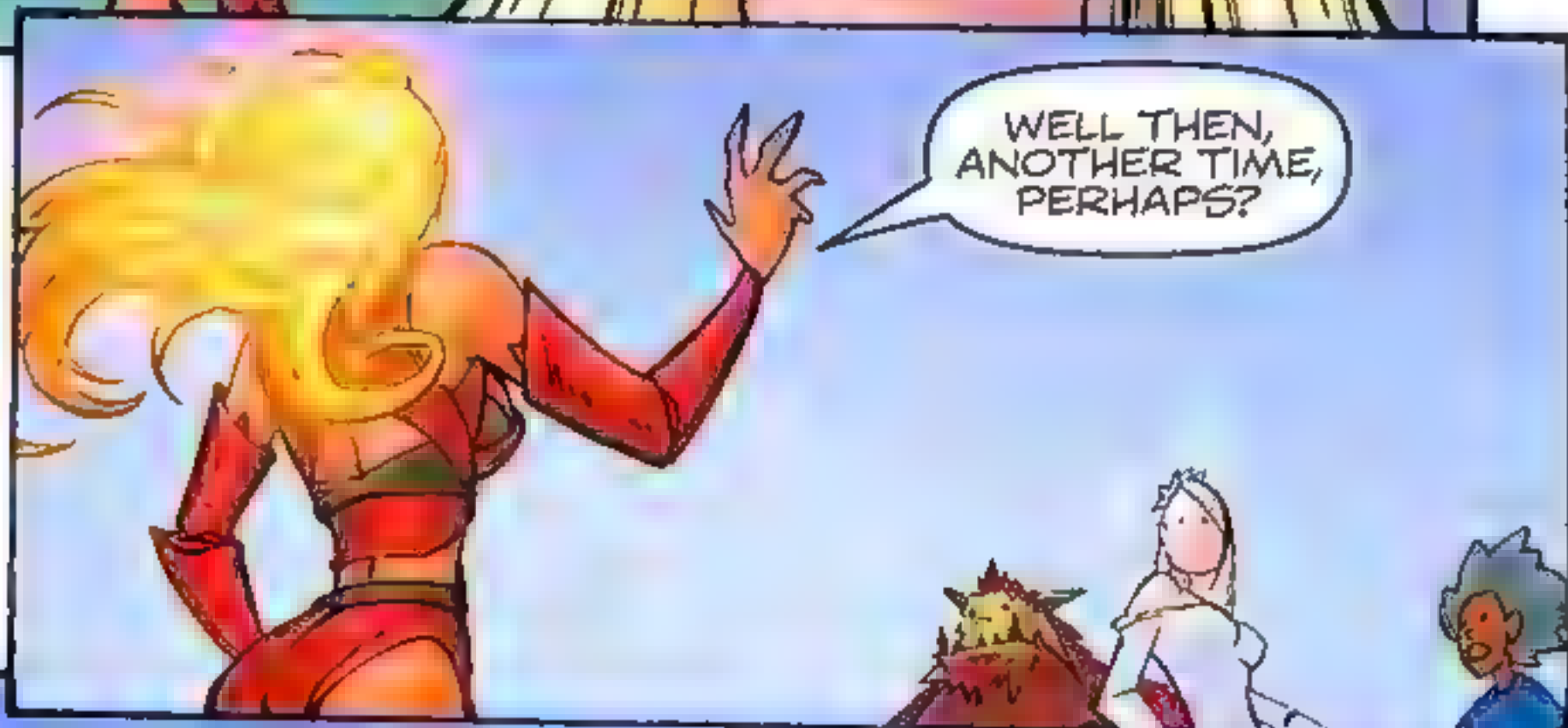
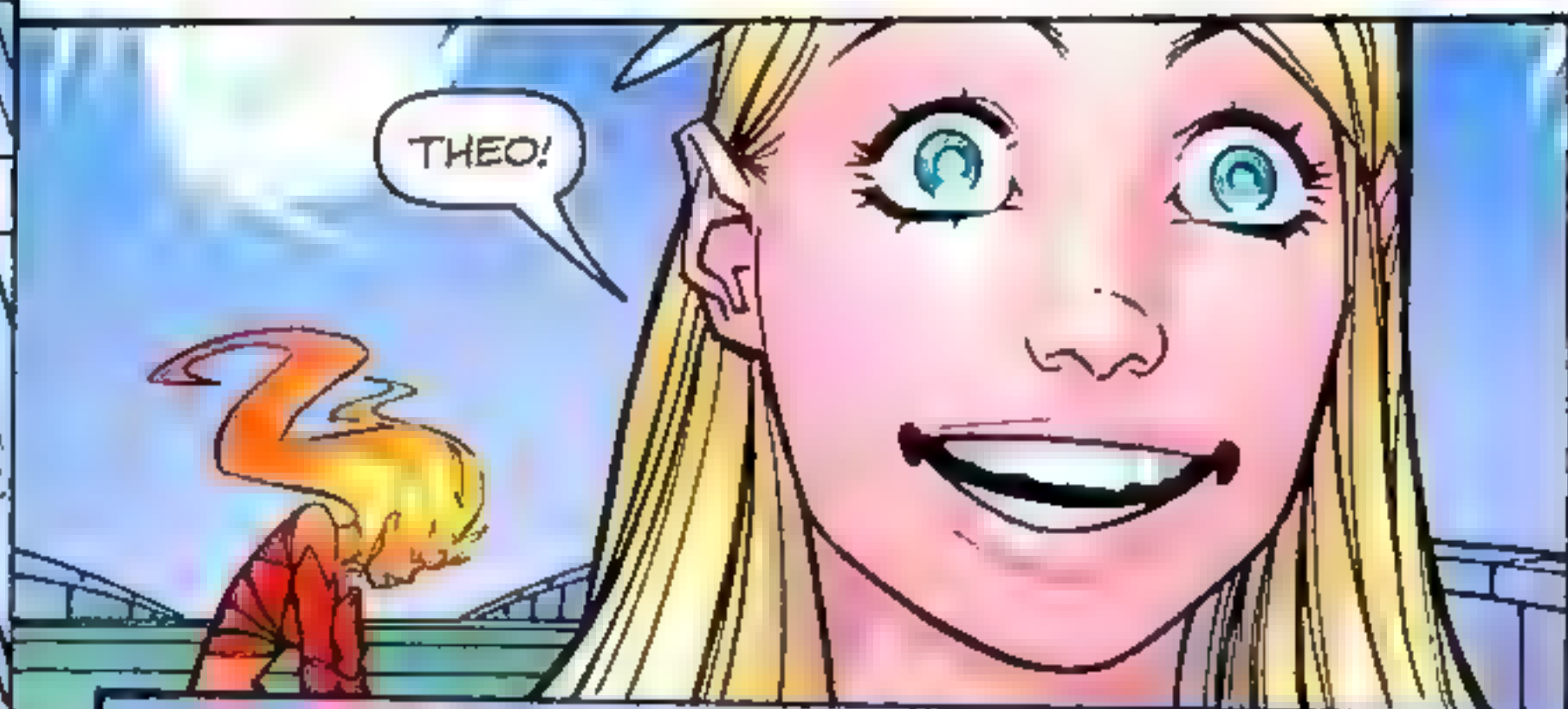


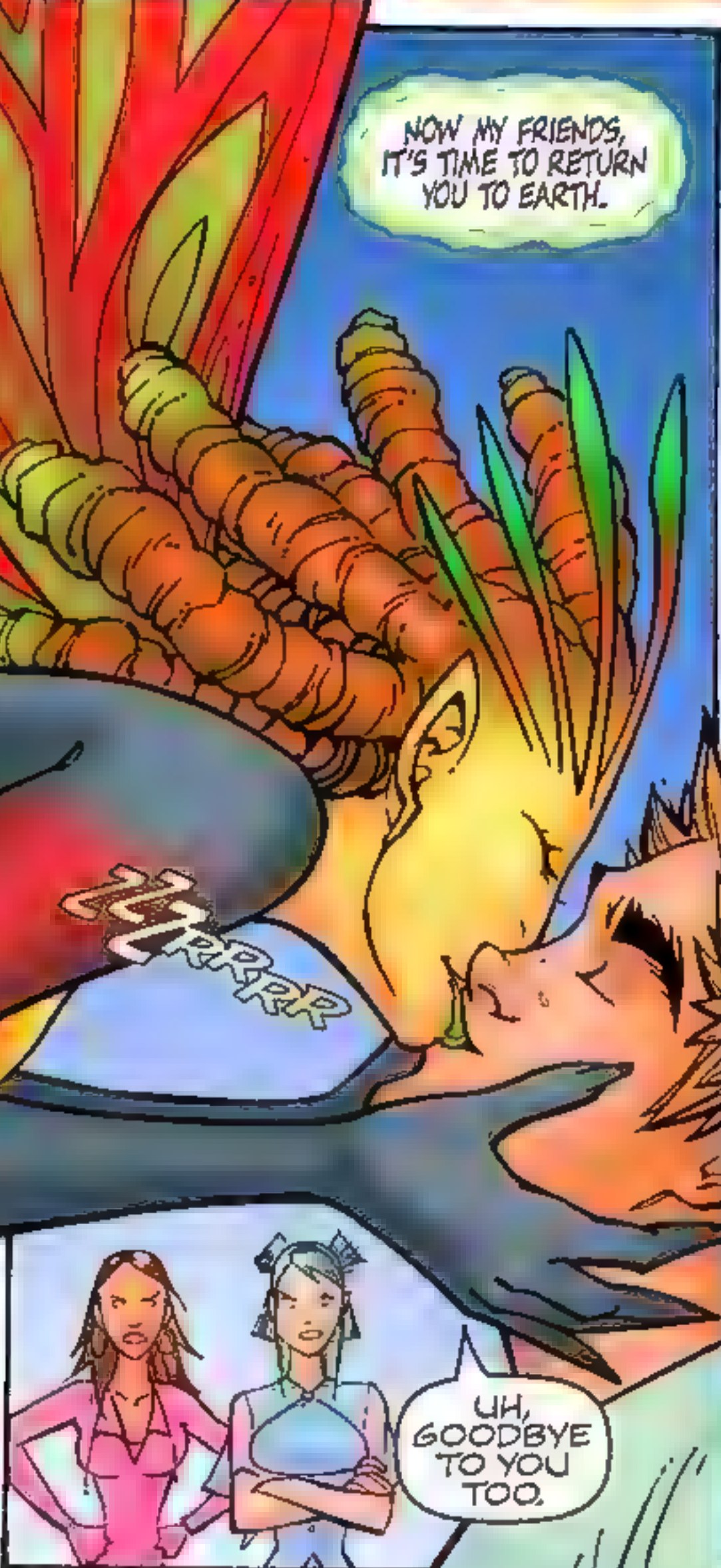
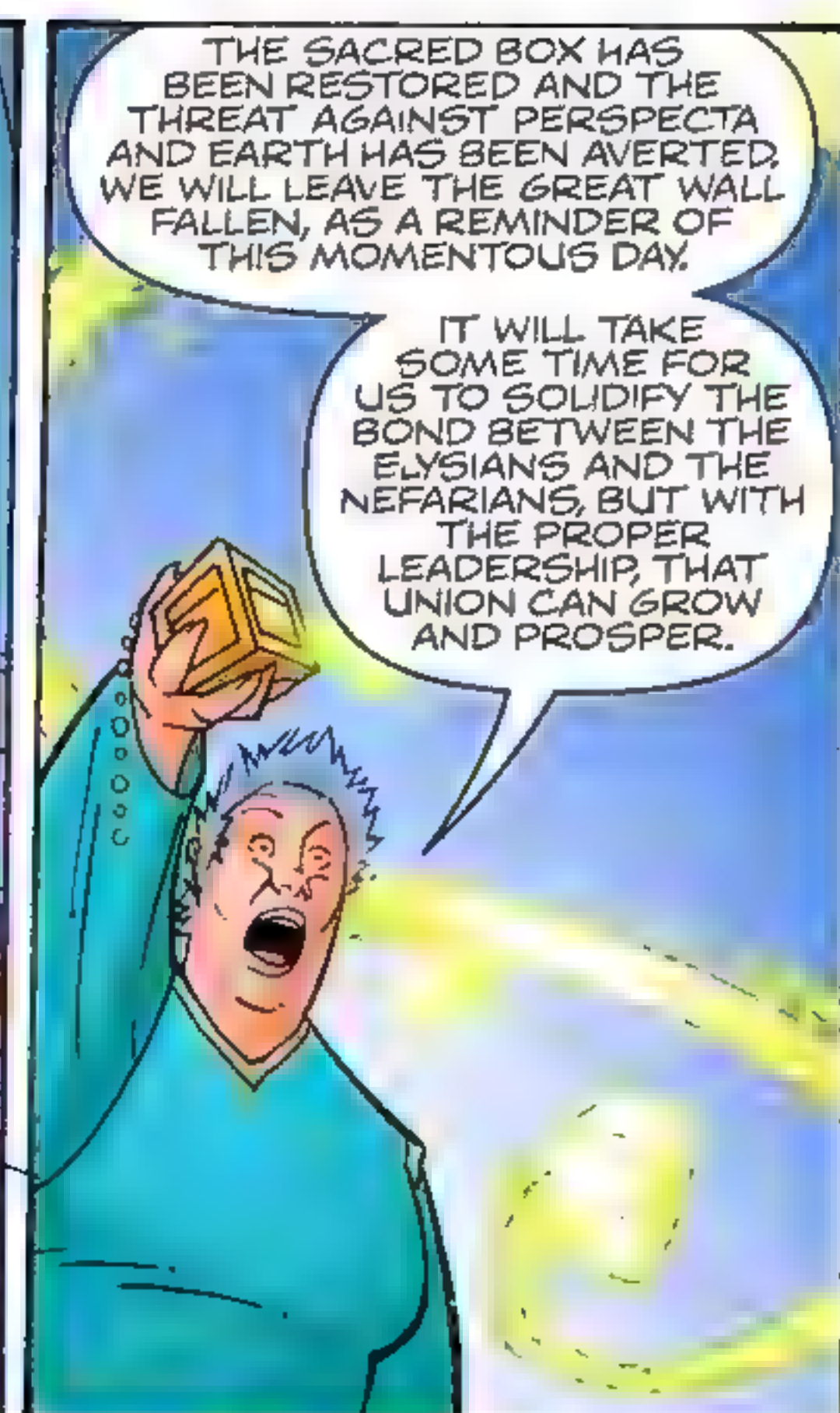
BE STRONG.
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER
AGAIN, I PROMISE. I'LL
ALWAYS BE ON YOUR
SHOULDER LOOKING
OUT FOR YOU.



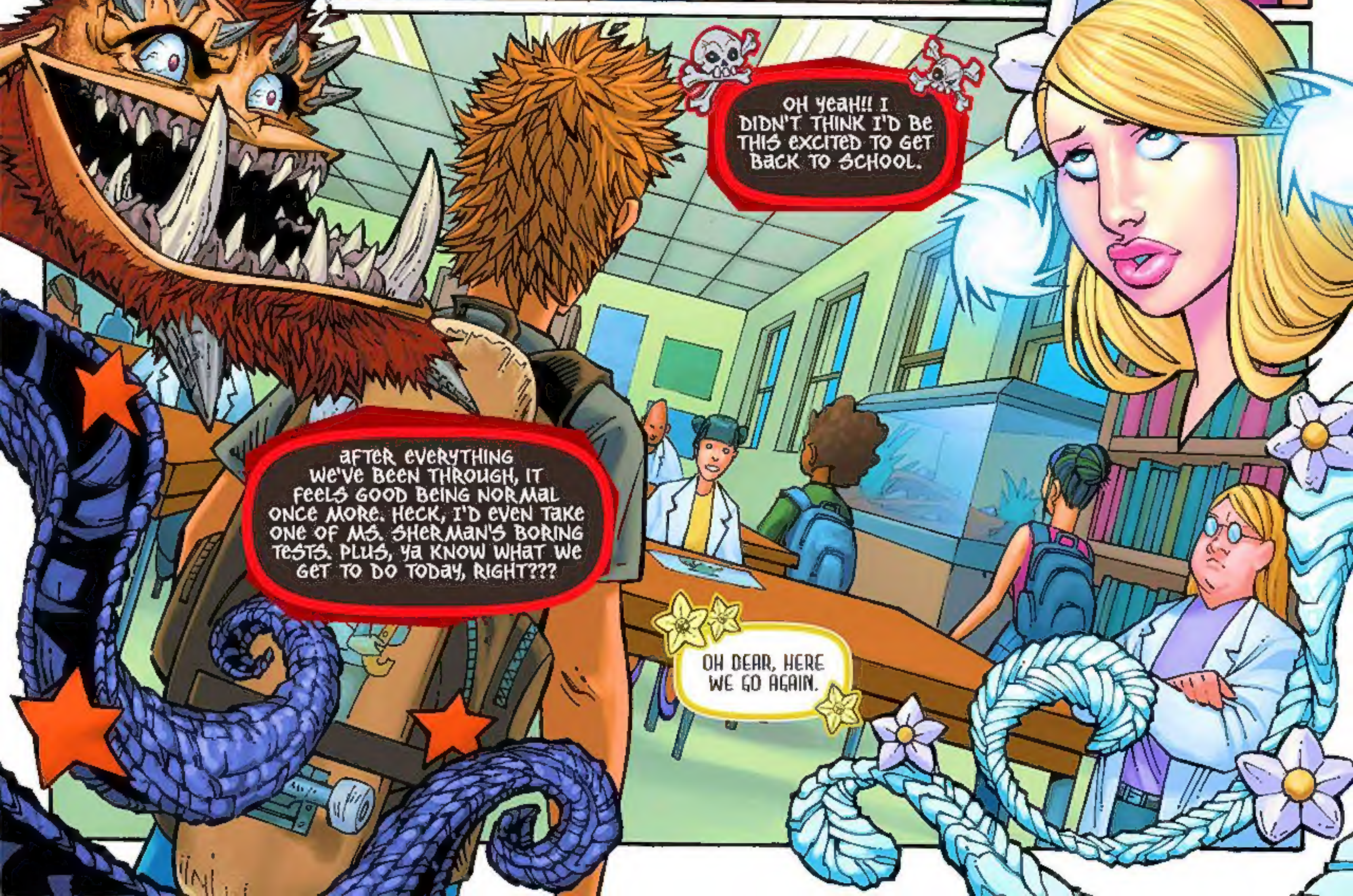
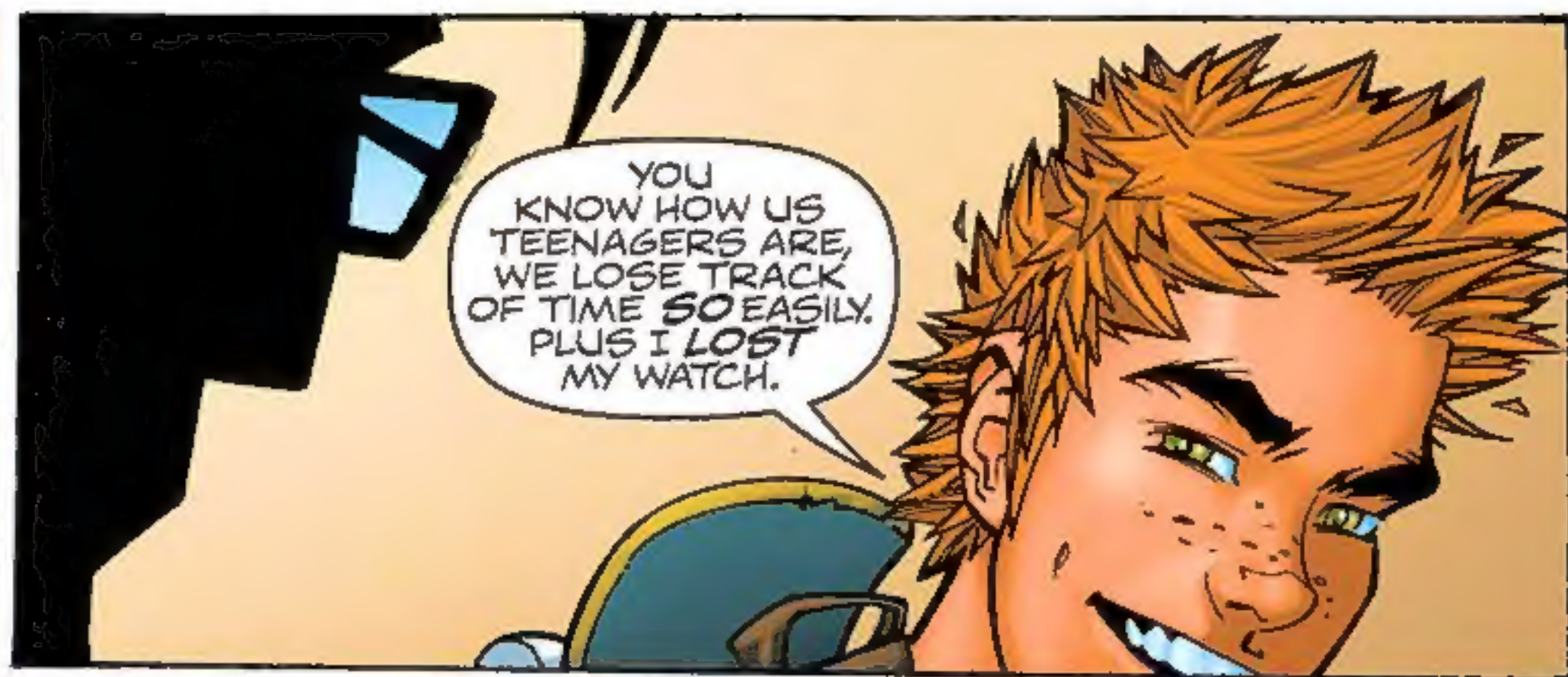
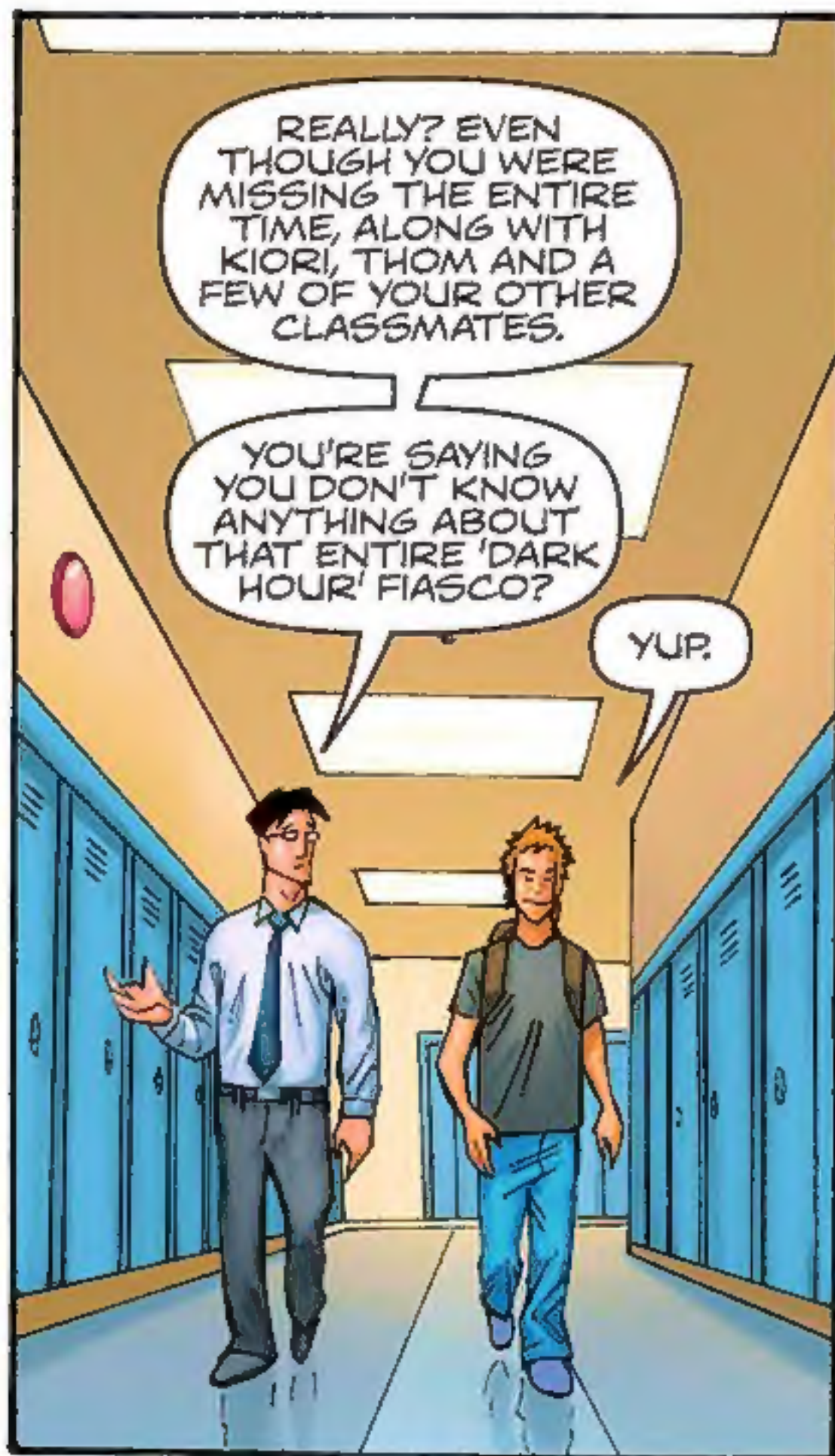
NOW...











PERHAPS JUST THIS ONCE, WE CAN REFRAIN FROM SUCH ACTIVITIES.

IT SEEMS KIORI IS ALREADY QUITE CONTENT.

YEAH, THAT GIRL'S GOOD IN MY BOOK. BUT WALKER'S READY TO ROLL! THE BIG OAF IS STARTING TO GROW ON ME... A LITTLE.

I WOULDN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT.

AND LOOK WHO'S HERE! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, FELLAS.

BOYS, RING THE BELL!

START YER ENGINES!

GET READY, GET SET!

FROG FIGHT!!!!

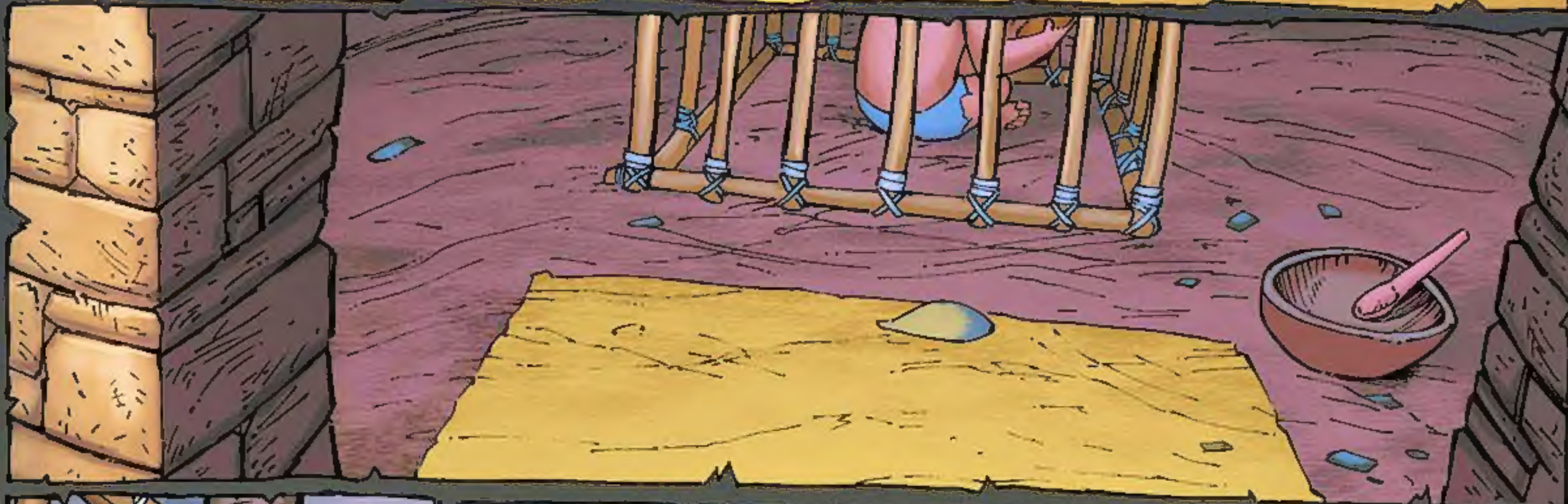
OH, WHY NOT. LET US HAVE SOME FUN. BOMBS AWAY!

ALRIGHT, ANGE!

WOOHOO!! I LOVE THIS PLACE!

MICAH DON BETH 06-08

THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...



REVENNGGEEEEE...

THE END?